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## BIRTHS.

On the 14th September, at the Peak Hotel, the wife of O. von der Heyde, of a daughter. [2113]

On the 15th inst., at 11, Hanbury Road, Shanghai, the wife of Mr. A. A. da Roza, of a son.

At the German Consulate-General, Shanghai, at 3 p.m. on the 18th of September, 1896, the wife of Dr. Forke, of a daughter.

## DEATHS.

On the 9th September, at 119-B Bluff, Yokohama, THOMAS SIMPSON KENDERDINE, aged 47 years, late Master Nippon Yusen Kaisha service.

## ARRIVALS OF MAIIS.

The English mail of the 21st August arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Pekin*, on the 18th September (28 days); the German mail of the 24th August arrived, per N. D. L. steamer *Prinz Heinrich*, on the 22nd September (29 days); and the American mail of the 26th August arrived, per P. M. steamer *Coptic*, on the 22nd September (27 days).

## EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Japanese papers received during the last few days report extensive damage from floods in the country and some loss of life.

The *Bangkok Times* says:—The black plague which was said to have broken out at Nongkhai, we are glad to learn, proves to be some other form of illness.

A double murder took place at Causeway Bay, Hongkong, on the 19th September, two mafoos in the employ of Mr. Kennedy being killed by two other men in the same employ owing to a quarrel about a woman.

Captain Donald McKenzie has been appointed Captain-Superintendent of Police at Shanghai, vice Captain McEuen, deceased. Captain McKenzie has occupied the post of Deputy-Superintendent for the last year and a half.

The Hon. T. H. Whitehead, whose period of appointment to the Legislative Council had expired, was on the 19th September unanimously re-elected by the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce as its representative.

At last a relaxation of the quarantine at Manila is announced. H.E. the Governor has received the following telegram from the Consul:—"Quarantine arrives China without Chinese passengers three to five days; with Chinese seven days."

At a special general meeting of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce held on the 19th September resolutions were passed protesting against the recent increase in cable rates and promising support to any Company that would provide an efficient service at reasonable charges.

The report of the Tanjong Pagar Dock Co., Limited, for the half-year ended 30th June last shows that the net profit for that period is \$205,242, which, with the balance \$46,525, brought forward after payment of last dividend makes \$251,767. From that sum, after placing to the special reserve fund, initiated at last meeting, \$50,000, and to a fund in connection with the house accommodation of the employees, European and native, \$20,000, the directors recommend the payment of an *ad interim* dividend of \$7 per share for the half year, leaving a balance of \$76,767 to be carried forward.

The report of the Douglas Steamship Co., Limited, for the year ended 30th June, 1896, shows that after paying all running expenses, premia of insurance, remuneration to consulting committee and auditors' fees, there remains a net profit of \$255,327, and it is proposed to appropriate this amount as follows:—To write off \$43,721 from the value of the Company's property (excepting the *Haimun*) on 30th June last, being the equivalent of 8 per cent. thereon, and to pay a dividend of 12 per cent. on the capital of the company, which will absorb a further \$120,000, to transfer \$50,000 to the credit of the reserve fund, and carry forward to next year's account the balance of \$41,606.

The funeral of the late Captain Superintendent of the Shanghai Police, J. P. McEuen, R.N., took place on Saturday afternoon, 12th September, at the New Cemetery, Shanghai, the remains having arrived that morning by the *Empress of Japan* from Yokohama. Besides a large force of foreign and Sikh police in full uniform, headed by Capt. Mackenzie, Chief-Inspector Howard, Inspectors Wilson and Reed, those present at the interment included the Chairman (Mr. J. L. Scott) and members of the Municipal Council, Mr. G. Jamieson, H.B.M.'s Consul, Dr. Stuebel, H.I.G.M.'s Consul-General, Mr. James Scott, H.B.M.'s Vice-Consul, and many personal friends of the deceased. The Service was conducted by the Rev. Mr. Welsh.

The latest news received regarding the rebellion in the Philippines is that the rebels are in possession of the whole of the province of Cavite with the exception of the town of that name and the arsenal. The men-of-war were shelling the villages. A number of friars have been murdered. In the province of Manila the Government forces hold their own, but there is a strong feeling of alarm and insecurity. Other provinces are also disturbed. A number of persons have been tried by Court Martial and executed on charges of being engaged in the revolution.

The report of the Union Insurance Society of Canton, Limited, for the year 1895 shows that the net premium collected for the year, after deducting returns and re-insurances, amount to \$1,588,229. After providing for a bonus of 20 per cent. on contributions paid in April last, there remained at credit of working account a balance of \$613,500. From this sum the directors recommend the payment of a second bonus of 5 per cent. on contributions, a dividend of \$15 per share, equivalent to 30 per cent. on the paid up capital of \$50 per share, and an addition to the reserve fund of \$150,000, raising the reserve to \$1,200,000. The balance remaining of \$247,950 they propose to carry forward and thus close the account for the year 1895. The position of the Society for the present year, as far as it can be ascertained, is as follows:—Balance of working account to the 30th June, \$748,585, add estimate of premium to 3rd September, \$420,000, making a total of \$1,168,585. The estimate of losses to pay is \$484,000, leaving a balance of \$684,585.

At a recent meeting of the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce, the China Association, and representatives of the Cotton Mill Companies it was decided to ask Mr. C. J. Dudgeon to proceed to Peking to explain to the Foreign Ministers the views of the parties interested with reference to the proposed revision of the commercial treaties with China. The buyers of tea had also addressed a letter to the Chamber of Commerce on the inland and export duties, which they consider the principal cause of the decline in the China tea trade. The *N. G. Daily News*, referring to the matter, says:—"Mr. C. J. Dudgeon is proceeding almost immediately to Peking to urge upon the Foreign Ministers the importance of appointing a Commission to sit in Shanghai to consider the whole question of the proposed revision of the Commercial Treaties with China. It is suggested that a Board composed of representatives of the mercantile community and the Customs, and presided over by a Consul, should sit in Shanghai to collect evidence, and draw up a report embodying the result of their labour somewhat in the manner of Royal Commissions or Parliamentary Committees in England. Mr. Dudgeon, in undertaking his present mission, is acting in the best interests, and has the full support of the representatives of all foreign trade with this country." In its next issue our contemporary says:—"In yesterday morning's paragraph in reference to Mr. Dudgeon's mission to Peking it was mentioned that it was suggested that the proposed Board should be presided over by a Consul. It must be understood that this last was only a casual suggestion, all such details being, of course, left for settlement when the principle of the Commission is accepted."

**THE QUEEN'S REIGN.**

(23rd September.)

Her Majesty Queen VICTORIA has now reigned longer than any previous British sovereign. She ascended the throne on the 20th June, 1837, and yesterday her reign equalled in length that of GEORGE III., namely, fifty-nine years and ninety-seven days, allowing for the fact that the Queen has counted fifteen leap years, while in the reign of George III. the 29th February was only counted thirteen times. Some desire was expressed in England to celebrate the occasion by national rejoicings, but it was Her Majesty's wish that no celebration of the kind should take place until she had completed the full term of sixty years, which will be in June next. The day is one, however, on which congratulations may appropriately be tendered to Her Majesty, together with sincere wishes that Her already long reign may continue for many years to come. The reign of Queen VICTORIA has been not only the longest in our national history, but also the most glorious. In the extension of the Empire, the development of trade and commerce, the progress achieved in science and art (with the possible exception of literature), and the improvement of the material well being of the people, the present reign will stand out in history above all previous ones. Her Majesty's personal influence in Her exalted position has been exercised always for good and she possesses the affections of Her subjects to a degree that few sovereigns have equalled and none could exceed. With British subjects the prayer "God save the Queen" is no idle form.

**THE DOCK COMPANY AND THE ADMIRALTY DOCK.**

At the recent meeting of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company it was stated that the negotiations with the Government for the construction of a new dock at Kowloon had been broken off, the Company's proposals having been declined by the Admiralty. Various reports are in circulation as to the rock on which the negotiations split. Another dock is undoubtedly required, both for naval reasons and for the Company's own business, and under these circumstances it would seem that there ought not to have been much difficulty in arriving at an agreement that would have been mutually advantageous. An attempt is now being made to work up an agitation in favour of the construction of an Admiralty dock at Singapore. That it might be a very good thing to have such a dock there we have no wish to dispute, but it certainly could not take the place of a dock in Hongkong. If Great Britain is ever involved in a great naval war the scene of the conflict in the Far East will lie to the north of Hongkong, not to the south, and the docking accommodation should be as near as possible to the point at which it is required. To have to send ships to Singapore to be docked while hostilities were in progress would be a disastrous waste of time and power, and under certain circumstances it might be impossible to send them at all. If Chusan were a British colony, as it ought to be, it might be contended that it would be desirable to provide docking accommodation there rather than to increase the existing accommodation at Hongkong, but Chusan not being available Hongkong is the port which our navy must look upon as their repairing centre and coaling station in the event of war. Singapore would be useful in support of any minor operations

that might take place to the southward and also as a place on which our fleet could fall back in the event of the fortune of war going against us at the beginning and Hongkong falling into the hands of the enemy; but Hongkong is infinitely the more important place from a naval point of view and a dock here would be many times more useful than one at Singapore.

Additional docking accommodation in Hongkong having been recognised as necessary it is unfortunate that the project should have broken down on a question of terms between the Admiralty and the Dock Company. It is still possible that the accommodation may be provided by the Admiralty constructing a dock of its own; indeed the Admiralty will have to take that course sooner or later if an agreement cannot be arrived at, but it would involve considerable extra expense to the nation both for original cost and annual upkeep, the work could not be more satisfactorily done than by the Dock Company, and the Company if it lost the men-of-war would lose a valuable branch of its business. From every point of view, therefore, it is desirable that an agreement should be arrived at if possible and that if the Company has made a mistake by asking too much before it should reopen negotiations by making another offer. Perhaps the directors might say that the Admiralty has refused a good bargain; on the other hand people who ought to know something about the subject say the terms demanded by the Company were unreasonable, quite impossible in fact. The shareholders have not been taken into the directors' confidence in the matter, and therefore cannot satisfy themselves by reference to any authentic statement of the case, for none is available; but we believe there is some feeling that matters should not be allowed to rest exactly where they are.

It is reported that over and above the purely financial questions between the Board and the Admiralty there was another consideration which, though it may not have been openly avowed, weighed somewhat with the Admiralty, and that is that the Company is not under purely British control. Mr. A. P. MACEWEN stated some little time ago that a British Admiral had spoken to him about having to communicate with the Chairman of the Dock Company, finding that he was not a British subject, and feeling dissatisfied with such a position of affairs. This is a semi-political question which we may discuss without fear of wounding the susceptibilities of our fellow colonists of German nationality, because they are men of business and common sense, and they know very well that if the German Government wished to establish a naval dock in a German colony and thought the best means of doing so was by agreement with a public company the idea of an Englishman or any other foreigner being the Chairman of the company, and therefore the channel of communication with the German Government, would not be entertained for a moment. In the same way the British Naval authorities have, if not an insuperable objection, at least a disinclination, to conduct their business in an English colony through a foreigner. It is urged that the proposed new dock is required in view of warlike contingencies and that in such contingencies inconvenience and even danger might arise from the fact of the Chairman of the Company not being a British subject. In a minor degree the same objection would lie against having foreigners on the Board at all, but the chief objection is with

reference to the office of chairman. On the other hand it may be urged that the objection is mainly one of sentiment, that there is no real danger or inconvenience in the matter at all as things stand now, and that if war did unfortunately break out the Government would very likely take the docks into their own hands or as an alternative they could insist upon all foreigners leaving the Board when the occasion arose. However this may be, the practical point for the shareholders to consider is that an objection is entertained in a quarter from which valuable business may be expected, and that unless the objection is removed the business may possibly be otherwise provided for.

A very easy way out of the difficulty presents itself without depriving the Company of the services of the German members of the Board of Direction or hurting any one's feelings. Under existing arrangements the members of the Board succeed to the office of Chairman in annual rotation, not by election, and the office therefore carries with it no special honour nor any token that the holder for the time being possesses the confidence of the shareholders in any greater degree than his fellows. Consequently it would be no great act of self-denial for the directors to surrender their claim to succeed to the chair and make way for a Managing Director who should also be the permanent Chairman of the Company. Many great enterprises at home are run on those lines, and in almost all of them, whether the gentleman at the head of affairs be called Chairman or Managing Director, the office is in practice a permanent one, though the form of annual election may have to be gone through. Succession to the chair by rotation is open to objection on its merits as a general principle, and in the case of our local Dock Company is open to special objection. The Company owes its success almost entirely to Mr. DAVID GILLIES, the Chief Manager, and if he were appointed Managing Director and Chairman it would not only afford much satisfaction to the general body of shareholders but would also meet the objections said to be entertained by the Admiralty to the present government of the Company.

**RESTRICTION OF CHINESE IMMIGRATION IN CANADA.**

The progress of LI HUNG-CHANG through America has not been quite such a record of adulation and feting as was the case in Europe. No doubt there was some desire for contracts among manufacturers in the United States, but there is no organization in the Great Republic through which a semi-barbarous Eastern magnate can be feted and fussed. In New York alone does there appear to have been anything like an effort made to do the veteran mandarin special honour, and there, we are informed by Reuter, he was accorded a grand reception. That was on the 20th ult., and on the 7th inst. it was announced that His Excellency had arrived at Toronto en route for Vancouver. On the 10th idem it is telegraphed that LI HUNG-CHANG has made anxious inquiries about the mooted proposal to increase the poll-tax on Chinese in Canada from \$50 to \$500. The Chinese Government have always professed to be strongly averse to emigration from China to foreign countries, and there is still an unrepealed law on the statute book prohibiting emigration. As a matter of fact this law has been a dead letter for at least four decades, and was probably never strictly enforced. But it served the purpose

of the Peking authorities to retain it as law, while they winked at its systematic evasion. They would not give official countenance to emigration because that might, and would, have involved any civilised nation in the duty of providing for the proper protection of its subjects in foreign countries. Official methods are otherwise in China; no responsibility is accepted if by any means it can be avoided. The emigrants may go and seek their fortune in any land that will receive them, but the number of such countries is an ever-decreasing one, as the Celestial visitors are not as a rule altogether a desirable class, and while they bring little with them they often take a great deal away to China. So considerable have been the sums carried back by some returned emigrants that even the most dull-witted of the Chinese officials have latterly perceived the importance of permitting the traffic to go on. Every emigrant becomes a customer for Chinese produce, and most of them remit money to relatives in the Flowery Land, where numbers return with substantial savings, occasionally amounting to a handsome competence. The benefits derived from emigration were at first unappreciated by the mandarins, but of late years, since the restriction of their influx into the United States and the Australian Colonies, the advantages derived have become better known by their loss.

One of the first to recognise the advantages accruing to China from emigration was His Excellency LI HUNG-CHANG. They were soon forced upon his attention and have been present in his mind ever since the negotiation with him by the United States Commissioners in 1880 of a Treaty to restrict the immigration of Chinese into that Republic. The action of the United States Legislature and of the Australian Colonies in practically closing those countries to the Chinese emigrant was very distasteful to the Peking Government, who were at one time disposed to show some resentment. But this was probably either too much trouble, or it was deemed impolitic, and though secretly nursing the anti-Chinese legislation in the United States as a grievance no attempt was made to retaliate. As a matter of fact the door of Uncle Sam's domain has never been quite shut in the face of John Chinaman. The latter is too cunning to be easily denied admission, and though few Chinese now go to the States direct they manage to secure a passage indirectly. No doubt both through Canada and Mexico access has been obtained into the United States by considerable numbers, though of course very limited compared with the flow of emigration prior to the last Bill passed at Washington, which claimed to be iron-bound. The exclusion of the Chinese from the *El Dorado* they had found in the United States caused an appreciable diminution in trade between that country and China, and the loss was felt chiefly by the latter. Li Hung-chang now fears that another avenue through which Chinese enterprise finds employment is about to be cut off: that the poll tax in Canada is shortly to be raised from fifty to five hundred dollars. This would close another great country to Chinese exploiters and would also be the means of rendering the United States inaccessible save through Mexico. Whether the Canadian Government will be impressed with Li's objections to the virtual exclusion of Chinese from the Dominion which would result from the levy of so large a sum as \$500 per head as poll-tax is doubtful. If the constituencies demand further restriction on the influx of

Chinese labourers, the Government will feel bound to impose it. The decision rests with the electors, and if the Canadian working man fears the Chinaman as a competitor in the labour market he will do his utmost to exclude him. The British Government has absolutely nothing to do with the matter, and the Chinese will simply have to submit. Canada, like the United States, has gained largely from the supply of Chinese cheap labour brought gratuitously to her Pacific shores, but it is pretty certain that with the flow of emigration westward the need for Chinese labour will soon cease, and the same antagonism that sprang up against the Mongolian in California will arise in Canada. This is to be expected, and though the exclusion of the Chinese from Canada would prove a loss to the country generally and to the city of Vancouver in particular for some time to come it is only what has been expected. The advent of Asiatics in countries possessing a temperate climate is seldom desired and rarely tolerated long.

#### THE JAPANESE IN FORMOSA.

The truth about the conduct of the Japanese in Formosa is now beginning to clarify somewhat. By the apologists for the Japanese it is contended that the reports of their cruelty have been greatly exaggerated, but at the same time it is at length admitted that provocation for the rebellion of the Chinese was given. Moreover, in the *Kobe Chronicle* of the 15th September we read:—"A Tokyo telegram published in the Osaka and Kobe papers asserts that the principal Japanese official at Unrin in the heart of the disturbed district of Formosa has been cashiered for indiscriminate severity to peaceful as to hostile Formosans, causing those who would be well disposed to be come disaffected and to join the rebels." This official, MATSUMURA YUNOSHIN, is described as 'Director of the Unrin branch of the Taichu Prefectural Government.' If this assertion be correct we must take it that the allegations of our correspondents have been supported, as to their substance, by Japanese official evidence. Professor BURTON, in the interesting letter from his pen published in yesterday's issue, in criticising the correspondents who have represented the conduct of the Japanese as blameworthy takes special exception to the statement of one of the correspondents that there were European eye-witnesses. Professor BURTON says, "The things witnessed are supposed to be the atrocities that your correspondent describes." The passage in the letter referred to does not bear that construction; it reads:—"I may say there is not a single resident here, of whatever calling, having any chance of finding out the truth, who believes the Japanese were provoked. If it were mere rumour it would be a different thing, but it is not. There are European eye-witnesses as well as Chinese, and as, for once, accounts from beginning to end confirm each other, who can help believing all that is said of the Japanese?" We take this to mean that there were European eye-witnesses of the fact that the conduct of the Chinese was not such as to provoke the Japanese, a fact which now appears to have been officially established, and that the unprovoked violence of the Japanese and their making war upon the unoffending natives gave good ground for crediting the reports of their subsequent conduct. That, we must confess, seems to us a reasonable position to assume. To construe the passage quoted in such a way

as to convey the meaning that there was a European eye-witness to every individual act of violence would be a straining of words, but Europeans certainly saw enough to afford strong presumptive evidence of the truth of the tales afterwards told them by the Chinese. It was of course understood from the outset that what took place was without the sanction of the Japanese Government and the higher officials and that when the matter came to their knowledge they would severely deprecate such proceedings, but that did not alter the facts then actually transpiring. Now that it is admitted that there was provocation for the rebellion and that the Japanese soldiery failed to discriminate between the peaceful and the hostile, it hardly seems worth while to argue as to whether there may or may not have been some exaggeration in the reports received. Substantially the charge has been proved.

#### THE INCREASE IN TELEGRAPH CHARGES.

The Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce was very much in earnest in its protest against the increased telegraph charges at the meeting held on Saturday. That the increase is wholly unjustified every one agrees. The question to be considered therefore is, what action can be taken to secure an abatement. The idea of the Chamber is to promote competition by promising support to a Pacific cable if one be laid. Would that promise be fulfilled? The mercantile community of the Far East have had the opportunity of supporting an opposition once before, and they failed to avail themselves of it. The Chinese lines broke down the previously existing monopoly and so long as they were willing to take telegrams at cheaper rates than the Eastern Extension and Great Northern they got a fair share of the business. As soon, however, as the Joint Cable Companies reduced their rates to the same level the merchants gave a practical demonstration of the fact that blood is thicker than water and deserted the Chinese lines for the undertakings in which men of their own race were interested. Why support the Chinese lines when the European lines would do the work for the same money, was the light in which the question presented itself to them. The Chinese lines consequently lost the business at all competing points and the Chinese Government ceased to have any great interest in resisting the diplomatic pressure brought to bear upon it to induce it to join in the recent Convention. The mercantile community were a simple trusting folk and their patriotic and kindly intentions have been turned into a rod for their own backs. Had the Chinese Telegraph Administration received any appreciable support from Hongkong and Shanghai they would have made a stronger fight than they did against the Convention that has been forced upon them and instead of allowing it to be carried through in secret might have invoked the support of the foreign Chambers of Commerce.

If a Pacific cable is laid it will, so far as the section between Honolulu and Japan is concerned, probably be a Japanese line. Would foreigners in China support a Japanese line in opposition to the English and Russo-Danish lines any more than they supported the Chinese lines? If the proposed new line became an accomplished fact to-morrow and was willing to undercut the existing Companies no doubt it would command the bulk of the business as long as the difference in rates continued, but it cannot be laid for a good many years to come.

and, unfortunately for itself, the public has a short memory. When the Pacific line commences business, if it starts with low rates the older Companies will adopt the same rates, and after a short period of competition the new comer, unless supported by definite assurances of support, may be induced to join the ring. We do not say that this would necessarily be the case, because the Japanese line might be a Government undertaking and the Government might take a more far-sighted and enlightened view of the situation than the companies working solely for big dividends; it might appreciate the advantages offered to trade by cheap telegraphy and be willing to work the undertaking on similar principles to those followed with regard to the national land lines, being content if it simply paid the expenses of working, upkeep, and interest on capital. If, on the other hand, the cable were in purely private hands the proprietors would almost certainly find it to their interest in the long run to work in agreement with the existing Companies.

In any case it must be a good many years before the proposed Pacific Cable can be undertaken, because Japan like China is under an agreement not to permit the landing of another cable for a specified period, and no promise of exclusive support given in general terms at the present time could be held binding then, for another generation of merchants will have sprung up. For the present the community so closely affected by the increase in telegraph rates can do little but grin and bear the evil that has been brought upon them by their own trustful disposition and their desire to support European rather than Chinese enterprise. The most perfect solution of the difficulty would be the nationalisation of the cables and their administration on the same principles as the postal service, but that, although not an altogether impossible solution, is not likely to be arrived at in the lifetime of the present generation. Meantime the feelings of the community towards the Joint Cable Companies is not a cordial one. It may be remembered that a few years ago Sir THOMAS McILWRAITH, then Premier of Queensland, smarting under the exactions of the Eastern Extension, lent his support to a project for a French cable across the Pacific. His action was in some quarters adversely criticised at the time as being unpatriotic, but in view of our own experience of the tyrannical manner in which the existing monopoly is worked we may be disposed to think that possibly after all such conduct might be justified.

#### THE MONEY MARKET.

The period of abnormally cheap money in England has come to an end, for the present at all events. Consols have fallen from 113 to 110 and the Bank of England rate of discount has been raised to  $2\frac{1}{2}$ . According to Reuter's telegram of a few days ago the rise in the discount rate was designed to arrest the drain of gold from the country. Where the gold was being drained to we do not know, but evidently there is a greater demand for money than has been experienced for some time past. It is also stated that the rise was quite unexpected, which would indicate that the demand was also quite unexpected, but nevertheless there had been some indication that what has occurred was not altogether improbable. It had been expected (we quote from the money article in the *Contemporary Review*) that the money market would be able

to finance the turn of the half-year without applying to the Bank of England for a peunyworth of assistance, but what actually happened was that during the few days before the end of the month some £5,000,000 had to be provided by the Bank of England. In these days the money market in all parts of the world is speedily affected by what takes place in London and we must as a matter of course expect that the comparative tightness of money at home will be felt to some extent out here in the Far East. We may derive some consolation from the axiom that cheap money means depression of trade and dear money good times, but nevertheless the period of transition is always a trying one, especially in the share market, which responds most readily to changes in the money market. Investors and speculators would therefore do well to study closely the signs of the times. So far as the Hongkong share market is concerned, the position could hardly be sounder, if we look only to purely local conditions, but we are liable to suffer sympathetically from the ailments of Shanghai, and unfortunately the conditions there are not quite so favourable. Keswick's Act is not in force there and for some time past speculation has been running dangerously high, operators have been paying for having their shares carried over for them from month to month, and if a slight stringency in the money market really makes itself felt it is to be feared there will be some little difficulty over settlements and that values in Hongkong will be proportionately affected. We have no wish to pose as alarmists, nor in fact do we anticipate anything very serious, but the fact that our local markets must be affected by the state of the money market in England cannot be ignored. As some indication that money in the Far East is not quite so plentiful as it was it may be noted that on the 7th inst. the Yokohama Shōkin Ginko raised its rates of interest. On the whole, however, we think it may safely be predicted that the stringency, whatever it may amount to, is not likely to be of long duration, and it may perhaps be no more than sufficient to relieve the plethora of money from which the Far East has for some time been suffering.

#### PLAQUE PRECAUTIONS AND DR. YERZIN'S CURE.

Is anything being done by the Government to investigate Dr. YERZIN's reported discovery of a cure for the plague? We use the word "reported" not in any derogatory sense, or as implying doubt of the accuracy of Dr. YERZIN's diagnosis and his statements regarding the effect of his treatment, but simply because no discovery of the kind can be regarded as scientifically established until it has been subjected to the test of independent examination and practical application in a large number of cases. Everyone remembers the great excitement that was caused by the announcement of Dr. Koch's alleged discovery of a cure for consumption and the grievous disappointment that followed when it was found to be a failure. There is no reason to suppose that the same experience will be repeated in the case of Dr. YERZIN's plague cure, on the contrary there is very strong evidence that the treatment is effective. The plague has left us for this year, but, while hoping that we may see no return of it next year or in any subsequent year, we must recognise that the danger of a recurrence will remain with us. The necessity of being prepared to meet and cope with a fresh out-

break, so far as ordinary sanitary precautions are concerned, is not likely to be lost sight of, but beyond this it seems to us that the Government ought to take steps to obtain a supply of Dr. YERZIN's lymph to have it ready for use at any time if required. If after all the remedy was found to be a fallacious one no harm would be done, while on the other hand if the expectations concerning it are fulfilled and the use of the lymph not only cures the disease but also affords as effective a protection against it as vaccination affords against smallpox it would be criminal if any means were neglected to place the colony in possession of such a valuable discovery. Is the Government, then, in communication with Dr. YERZIN? Has it made arrangements with him for a supply of the lymph on short notice? Has it offered him any inducement to set up an institution for the cultivation of the lymph in Hongkong? The matter should not be allowed to stand over until another outbreak of plague occurs. Now, while the colony is free from the disease, is the time to make arrangements for coping with it should it again make its appearance. There is no time to spare, for it appears from past experience that the spring is the season most favourable to the development of the disease, and the time between now and February next is none too long for making arrangements for the adoption of Dr. YERZIN's treatment should occasion for its use unhappily arise. Considering what plague means to the colony, in physical suffering, loss of life, and the stoppage of trade by the imposition of quarantine in neighbouring ports, no step ought to be neglected that offers even a remote prospect of effective protection against it.

#### HOPE FOR THE CHINA TEA TRADE.

In another column will be found a letter and an article reproduced from the *Foochow Echo* in which an important announcement is made, namely, that foreign machinery and foreign methods have at length been introduced in the preparation of tea in one of the districts near Foochow. The commencement is a small one and how the experiment will result remains to be seen. The machinery has been got up to Peeling without opposition, but whether immunity from mandarin obstruction will continue to be enjoyed is doubtful. There can be no doubt, however, that if the adoption of foreign methods were officially approved they would speedily become general and a great revival in the tea trade would result, notwithstanding the heavy taxation to which the article is subjected, amounting in all, it is said, to 40 per cent. If at the same time that foreign methods are introduced the taxation were either wholly abolished or reduced to a moderate amount the China tea trade would soon regain its ancient glory and wealth would once more flow into the districts that have become impoverished by the loss of their principal industry. If foreign capital were allowed to be freely invested in the interior we would soon have numerous planting companies established whose prospects would be even brighter than that of the Shanghai cotton companies from which so much is expected. Following its usual policy, however, China would probably object to foreigners acquiring any vested interest beyond the treaty ports. In the case of the Foochow enterprise Mr. FRASER has presumably been enabled to make some special arrangement to permit of his establishing himself at Peeling, but on this point

the local paper is silent. In any case, however, the introduction of foreign machinery and foreign methods affords a ray of hope brighter than any that merchants interested in the China tea trade have enjoyed for many years.

#### RETURN OF THE KUCHENG CRIMINALS.

Some recent remarks in this column in connection with the fresh outbreak of anti-foreign feeling in the Kucheng district, infamous by reason of the massacre there last year of a number of helpless women and children, have received further illustration and point by a fact mentioned in our Foochow contemporary. The *Echo* says that by the decision of the Commission which sat there after the massacre two of the culprits concerned were banished beyond the frontier, one for ten years and the other for life. The sentence originally passed was death, but this was subsequently commuted to exile. That was about a year ago, and our contemporary avers that both these criminals are now at their homes in the neighbourhood of Kucheng carrying on their former occupation, either in calm defiance of or with the full knowledge of the officials. The latter is the most probable conjecture. The punishment was never meant to be more than nominal, and as soon as the first outburst of indignation had subsided these ruffians, whose action was no doubt secretly applauded by the Viceroy and his gang, were brought back and reinstated in their homes, possibly with compensation for the small loss or brief punishment they had undergone. The coolies whose heads were struck off may or may not have been some of the actual perpetrators of the tragedy, but the instigators of the crime no doubt escaped altogether. The action of the Fukien officials throughout showed that their sympathies were with the murderers, and everything possible was done to screen the men who were responsible for the act. The graves of the victims are now green, and the first terrible grief of the bereaved somewhat dulled, but the memory of this atrocious and cowardly deed should never be allowed to fade. The statement of the Foochow journal ought to be investigated by the British Consul, and, if found correct, the Minister should insist upon the offenders being made to undergo their full sentence. To pardon them at this stage is not only a burlesque on justice but a gross insult to the British Government.

#### SUPREME COURT.

16th September.

#### IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE.)

**LO KWONG LAM V. HING LI HOP KEE FIRM.**  
Plaintiff sought to recover \$330.50 from the defendants for the loss of a cargo boat. Mr. Grist appeared for the plaintiff and Hon. Ho Kai represented the defendants.

The plaintiff said that on the 9th August the defendants engaged his cargo boat to deliver 23 tons of coal at the Canton steamer wharf. He said it was too rough to go and the defendant therupon promised to indemnify him to the extent of \$500 should anything unforeseen happen. On this understanding he consented to deliver the coal from his boat. After landing five tons of coal the weather became so boisterous that the work of unloading could not be proceeded with and the defendant's launch towed the cargo boat away. Somewhere near Blue Buildings the cargo boat was sunk in consequence of the heavy sea and three

of the occupants were thrown into the water but were rescued by the launch. The cargo boat was bought twelve months ago for \$400 and plaintiff had clothing and jewellery on board of the value of \$90, all of which was lost. The wreck was got ashore on the following day and was sold for \$39.50.

In answer to Hon. Ho Kai plaintiff said that when he was engaged by defendants there were other boats alongside, but they went away to escape the gale. The red drum was up at the time, but the sea was not very rough then. He heard people say a typhoon was coming and for that reason refused at first to go. The black ball was hoisted just as all the coal was put on board and when he got to the wharf he heard the gun fired.

The defence was that the plaintiff was not promised an indemnity and witnesses were called in support of this view. The coal was worth \$140.

His Lordship, in giving judgment, said he asked himself why, if the plaintiff thought the weather was too rough, he was there at all waiting to be hired. Why did he not leave for a place of safety? Again, was it likely that an indemnity was promised? The coal on board was worth \$140 and in order to secure the safe delivery of that cargo it was contended that an indemnity of \$500 was promised. His Lordship did not think the indemnity was promised and he gave judgment for the defendants with costs.

17th September.

#### IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR DR. CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE.)

**RECEIVING ORDER AGAINST A CONTRACTOR.**  
A petition for a receiving order against Shen Lung, contractor, 38, Hollywood Road, was presented.

Mr. Ho Wyson represented the debtor and Mr. Grist represented the petitioning creditor. Mr. A. Seth (Official Receiver) also watched the proceedings.

His Lordship said the only point was whether there was evidence to show that there were substantial assets available for division amongst the creditors.

Mr. Ho Wyson said he would call a witness to prove there were substantial assets.

Chun Kum, managing partner in the Shun Lung firm, said, in reply to Mr. Ho Wyson, that the firm was unable to pay its debts. He was sure that he could collect upwards of \$7,000 for work done by the firm. He could not say without reference to the books what the liabilities were.

In answer to his Lordship witness said the stock-in-trade consisted of work which was not yet completed. The sum of \$7,000 had not been paid, because the time for payment had not yet arrived.

His Lordship—\$7,000 sounds a good deal, but book debts are often not worth very much.

Mr. Ho Wyson—They are due from Europeans.

Witness said the Government owed him \$2,100, and Messrs. D. Sassoon and Sons owed him over \$3,000. He became a bankrupt because he was sued and had not sufficient money to pay. He was at the present time in prison under a civil process.

His Lordship granted the receiving order and appointed Mr. A. Seth official receiver.

Mr. Ho Wyson asked his Lordship to release the debtor from prison.

Mr. Grist, on behalf of the execution creditor, offered no objection and his Lordship made an order for the release of the debtor.

18th September.

#### CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR DR. CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE.)

#### A MAIDEN SESSIONS.

On the opening of the Court, the Registrar, addressing his Lordship, said—My Lord, it is my pleasant duty to inform your Lordship that no

cases have been committed for trial at this session. How often this has happened before I cannot say. Be that as it may, an occurrence of this sort is one on which we may congratulate ourselves. Surrounded as we are by hordes of people, the most of whom belong to untold millions to whom law and justice are unknown quantities, I think we Britishers in this British colony may pride ourselves on the fact as a fact which the Government and your Lordship, as the worthy holder of the sceptre of justice in this colony, may well be proud. According to traditional custom in the home country, at a maiden sessions the Clerk of the Crown generally presents a pair of white gloves to the Court. It is also my pleasant duty on this occasion to present your Lordship with the gloves. On the equity side of the Court he who seeks equity must generally do equity, that is to say, must come into Court with clean hands. I cannot exactly trace the custom in regard to the gloves; all I can say is that in handing the gloves to your Lordship I trust that the community now living may it so continue. I beg your lordship to accept the gloves.

His Lordship, in accepting the gloves, said—Mr. Registrar, I am very much obliged to you. I think the occurrence of a maiden sessions is always a matter for congratulation to all concerned in the administration of justice, and, I may say, to the people of the place in which the occurrence happens. At the same time I suppose, remembering the old saying that one swallow does not make a summer, we must not find too high expectations on the occurrence of a maiden sessions. I think we may expect, and at any rate hope, that with the spread of education on the one hand and the action of the efficient police on the other, crime will tend more and more to diminish. Gentlemen of the jury, I have to congratulate you both on public and private grounds that there are no cases for trial and to thank you for your attendance.

His Lordship asked the Acting Attorney-General if he had any other matter to bring forward and he replied in the negative. The Court then rose.

#### THE REBELLION IN THE PHILIPPINES.

#### HEAVY FIGHTING.

#### SHOCKING ATROCITIES.

19th September.

We are at length able to give additional information respecting the rebellion in the Philippines. On August 29th the outbreak had assumed very serious proportions. Hard fighting between the Spanish troops and the natives had taken place about three miles from Manila and it is reported that many were killed on both sides. Up to that day the Spanish authorities were apparently in ignorance of the extent of the impending trouble. At any rate it had been arranged to despatch a few hundred troops in a Spanish merchant steamer, the *Venus*, to Mindanao to suppress the revolt there, but on the 29th the Governor ordered the troops to remain in Manila, so that it is evident he was not aware of the danger until that day. The troops disembarked from the *Venus*, which thereupon went and brought up reinforcements from Iloilo.

Some shocking stories are told of fearful atrocities committed both by the Spanish and the rebels. On the 29th August a Spanish lieutenant was murdered before his wife's eyes, and then a number of the murderers attacked his wife and afterwards ravished her and her twelve year old daughter. Other stories of a like repulsive nature were told in Manila. The Spanish troops were also diabolical in their treatment of the natives. They met a party of thirty rebels in the street and proceeded to fire on them. Only one or two were killed, the others being purposely wounded only on the legs in order that they should suffer intense torture. Two natives who were killed were immediately disembowelled and the mutilated bodies hoisted on the gate of a bridge. It is believed that this fiendish conduct incensed the natives so much that they decided upon the murder of the lieutenant. One who witnessed the shooting of the natives

in giving an account of the affair is reported to have expressed himself in very strong terms of the conduct of the Spanish soldiers. One of his remarks was, it is said, that the thirty natives "suffered most awful torture."

It is also reported that the natives had arranged a scheme whereby every white man in the Philippines was to be murdered, but fortunately owing to lack of organisation the scheme was not carried out.

#### MURDER OF FRIARS.

#### REPORTED DISAPPEARANCE OF THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

#### BOMBARDMENT OF VILLAGES.

21st September.

The rebellion in the Philippines grows apace. News of the rising is no longer founded simply on vague and indefinite rumours, for we are now able to publish reliable information concerning the commencement of hostilities and the critical condition the country is in at the present moment. But although we are in possession of the most important facts we must confess that many more details could be obtained but for the easily understood reticence on the part of many people who prefer to maintain a stern silence on the subject. There is no room for the least doubt that the country is in a dire state of insurrection and there is every reason to fear that affairs may in a short time assume the proportions of the Cuban revolt. The natives are determined to carry on the civil war with might and main; their organisation is daily becoming more complete and effective, especially in the interior; and their numbers are rapidly increasing. As each man is sworn in on the rebel side he punctures his arm, writes his name on the arm with the oozing blood, and solemnly swears a vow of vengeance on the Spaniards. And the cause of the trouble? That does not seem to be definitely ascertained yet. On the one hand we hear that the imposition of an increased poll tax on the natives is the primary cause of the insurrection, while from other sources we learn that the outbreak is a long anticipated upshot of the rottenness of the Spanish Government or else a forcible display of the bitter hatred the natives have for the priests.

The story of the original plans for striking the blow is a most startling one. For a long time the natives have been conspiring to overpower the Government and it was finally decided to make a strong attack on the 15th inst. Governor-General Blanco was to have been murdered by one of the natives on that day, and it was arranged to suddenly swoop down upon the body of officials who attended the funeral, kill as many as possible, then ransack the town of Manila, and take entire possession of the place. It is due to a woman that this diabolical plot was discovered. In the confessional she disclosed the plot to the priest, who divulged the secret. The arrest and imprisonment of many natives plainly indicated that the priests were cognizant of all the arrangements, and then, towards the end of August, the fighting commenced in real earnest. From that time up to the middle of this month, the date of the latest news, there were repeated bloody conflicts between the Government forces and the natives. At first the natives were poorly armed; indeed the majority bore no weapons at all. In the vicinity of Manila the Government troops had little difficulty in dispersing the insurgents, but gradually the area of discontent considerably enlarged. The natives, who had before been inefficiently led, were after a while headed by competent officers. The organisation was improved, bolos, or long sharp knives, were distributed to the men, and their confidence in ultimately proving victorious grew greater and greater. Not a few of the men possessed firearms and at the present time it is said that eight thousand Mauser rifles have been handed to them.

The insurrection quickly spread to the province of Cavite, and it is there that most of the fighting is being carried on at the present time. The rebels are practically in possession of the province and it is said, and not without substantial foundation, that the Spanish officers

are afraid to take the troops into the interior before reinforcements of eight thousand soldiers from Spain have arrived. The town and arsenal of Cavite, however, remain in possession of the Government forces. If the troops went into the interior now they would be defeated, owing to the overwhelming numbers of the rebels and their present excellent organisation. And a defeat would carry in its train a consequence which the Spanish authorities are trying to avert. The native soldiers would surely turn upon the Spanish soldiers and annihilate them. Already the natural instinct of the native soldiers has been significantly shown. One day a regiment of natives was paraded. They were asked if they would fight for the Spanish Government, and their ready reply was that they would, but that they would certainly not kill one of their fellow countrymen. On another occasion a Spanish captain and half a dozen native soldiers were turned out to quell a disturbance. Five of the natives were killed and the sixth then turned round, stabbed his officer to death, and joined the rebel forces.

The timidity of the Spanish officers to enter Cavite under these circumstances gave the rebel forces a splendid opportunity to gather in large numbers in the province and to get formidably armed and thoroughly organised. When all was in readiness for an attack they swooped down upon the convent at Imus, a few miles from the town of Cavite, and murdered all the friars who could not manage to escape, but how many were put to death is not known. The Government still refrained from sending troops into the province, but four Spanish men-of-war bombarded Imus and other places where the movement of rebel forces could be detected for several days and the bombardment was still going on at the date of last advices. It does not appear, however, to have done very much damage, as the shells fell short and the rebels continued to hold their positions. It is believed that the whole of the province is in the hands of the rebels, and of course each day's delay in dispatching troops there means so much loss of power to the Spaniards and an inestimable gain of power to the rebels, as the forces of the rebels are certain to be augmented with each success. They are said to have already slain many hundreds in the interior.

In the immediate neighbourhood of Manila, but not in Manila itself, there has been much fighting, and from all accounts the Government troops have been successful, but they have lost several of their officers, who were killed. On one occasion five hundred rebels were dispersed by fifty soldiers and several arrests were made. Further corroboration is given of the horrible treatment the prisoners had to undergo in the "black hole." One hundred and sixty prisoners were cast into this dungeon, which is in the town of Manila, and by the following morning fifty-four of them were dead. Several prominent men are among the prisoners, and the names and occupations of those who were shot dead in the street on the 9th inst. are given in the Manila papers. Further arrests have been made, one of the men being Francisco Roxas, who is one of the best known merchants in Manila, but it is reported that he has succeeded in escaping. His brother Pedro Roxas was lucky enough to get away by a steamer which was proceeding to Spain, and it is believed that he left the boat at Singapore.

According to a private letter Manila is perfectly safe. We are informed, however, that every possible precaution is being taken to protect the town from attack and the volunteers have been sworn in and armed so as to be in readiness in case of emergency. The least thing creates a scare in the town and the residents are naturally in a very excited condition. Nowhere in the island, as far as can be ascertained, has a foreigner been molested, except Spaniards and Chinese. In the interior many Chinese have been killed, and ever since the insurrection started the Chinese have been leaving for Amoy in thousands, one steamer on a single journey taking 500 passengers. It is not known where Governor-General Blanco is. He has not been seen in Manila for several days, but it is believed that he has shut himself up in his palace in the city anxiously awaiting the arrival of troops from Spain.

We hear from one quarter that the woman who confessed to the priest told him there were 200 bottles of poison and 2,000 daggers stored in the *Diario* office, and it is asked whether these things could have been there without the knowledge of the directors, who are Spaniards. Of course the insinuation is that the priests were really the instigators of the sedition at the beginning, their intention being to ruin certain parties who were to be accused of the offence. If that be so there was never a clearer case of the danger of playing with fire. It is further pointed out that the present Governor-General has been in office more than the appointed three years, while the previous Governor, Desporjols, held office only for a few months, the reason being that he would not be influenced by the priests, whereas Governor-General Blanco submits to be turned at their will.

Many private letters have been received in the colony and they all corroborate the very serious nature of the rebellion, though their references are for the most part very guarded, as the letters are, it is believed, subject to official examination while in the hands of the Post Office. One gentleman writes—"The rebellion is bad enough now, but it would have been infinitely worse if the rebels had succeeded in keeping the conspiracy secret for a longer time; but fortunately the plot was disclosed by a woman, the wife of an Indian, who told the *Goorah* (the priest) of Tondo all about it. There is no danger in Manila, but in Cavite the rebels are carrying all before them. The first fighting took place on Sunday morning, 30th August, in Santa Mesa, San Juan, Santa Ana, Mandalay, and Pandacan. The rebels lost about a hundred that morning. Martial law was at once proclaimed and a few days ago four rebels were shot in the Luneta, and to-day (12th September) thirteen were shot in Cavite. Francisco Roxas—I guess you know him—was one of the first to be put in gaol and they say he has compromised himself."

Another letter says—"Everything is very unpleasant and fighting is going on every day. Four men were shot in the Luneta on Friday last (9th September) and I think many more will be shot. Although I think everyone is safe in Manila I cannot help feeling greatly worried. I am like everybody else, very unsettled. San Masa is empty, everybody having left their houses. Pedro Roxas went to Spain in the mail boat, but it is reported he left her at Manila. There are a lot of stories about Francisco Roxas. They say he is a prisoner with many more. The position is very serious in Cavite, and I understand that soldiers will be coming here every day from the provinces."

We understand that telegrams in code are not now allowed to be transmitted from Manila. Firms in Hongkong have received telegrams lately, but they have not been in code form.

The following private letter, apparently by a lady and dated the first week in September, is published by the *China Mail*:—"I am very glad you are not here now, as the Manila which has charmed you in days gone by is now dangerous for all white folks. You cannot imagine how frightened we are, although I presume the news has reached you long ere this, for the newspapers will not fail to say something about it. The Indians, until now so mild and gentle, have revolted. I very much fear they will kill all the Spanish, and we have already had many victims of their ferocity. The province of Cavite (which I suppose you know) has risen en masse against us, and there is a report that no less than twelve thousand people have risen in the other provinces. In Manila we have had a few small fights in Pandacan and Mandalay, San Juan del Monte; but these attempts have been effectually checked. In Cavite, however, up to the present (6th Sept.) the Spaniards have not been able to check the disturbance (or revolution), for they have not very many soldiers, and, as the rebels fight mostly among the woods, it is very difficult for the soldiers to manage them there. Indeed, looking at things all round, Heaven does not befriend us. I don't know what will become of us. In Cavite the rebels killed many of the Spaniards belonging to the garrison, and several of the priests were first tortured and afterwards killed. One poor lady, together with two nice young girls, were found in an Indian

cottage, barefooted and dressed in Indian costume. She escaped a fate a thousand times worse than death by the opportune arrival of a steam-launch with Spanish people who had been notified of her situation. Poor lady, she is for the present quite out of her mind. One European was shaved and marked on the arm, but he was cunning enough to cheat the miscreants and to escape from further injury. They tell us here that two thousand men are coming out from Spain to help us; but will they come in time? I sincerely hope so; but if we need help sorely I trust that the French and English men-of-war which are here will assuredly come to our aid. We have three of them now in the bay. I cannot give you any other news. I should like to leave Manila and never come back. Our minds are full of the rebellion, to the exclusion of all else."

From the *Comercio* we make the following condensed and summarised translation of the account of the occurrences near Manila on the night of Saturday, 29th August, and Sunday morning.

The Municipal Captain of the village of Pasig advised the Government that at half-past two a.m. numerous groups of rebels entered the village, taking three civil guards whom they pressed into their service, and robbing the armoury. In the same village, at daylight, a fight took place between the civil guard and the rebels, the latter being put to flight in disorder and leaving two of their number dead and three prisoners. The launches patrolling the river operated in conjunction with the civil guard.

From Pandacan a numerous body of rebels crossed the river to San Juan del Monte. When near the country residence of Señor Gomez they were attacked by the Spanish troops and defeated with great loss, details of which our contemporary had not received. The artillery are said to have specially distinguished themselves in the affair. The rebels broke up into small groups of seven or eight each and fled. The people employed at the waterworks give the following narrative.—Between six and seven o'clock on the evening of the 29th, a large body of natives, numbering about 500, went to the store house and took the sporting guns of those who lived there. Then they shaved those who had hair on their faces and compelled all of them to make an incision with a penknife in the left knee, which is called the blood compact, a document of affiliation being signed with the blood from the wound, and they then communicated to them the sign and password. The rebels, having obtained these compromising signatures, left at eleven o'clock at night, collecting arms wherever they could find them, and proceeding in the direction of San Juan del Monte, whence those employed at the waterworks saw them returning in disorderly flight between one and two o'clock in the morning. At Santolan they reformed and turned again towards San Juan, and between six and seven o'clock about a hundred fugitives were seen coming back who disbanded and scattered in various directions.

General Euchaluce had taken up his-quarters at the waterworks to direct the operations for clearing the district of rebels.

The Government forces appear to have lost five killed and several wounded in the above operations.

On the 31st it was reported that tranquillity prevailed in the district. A good many prisoners were sent in.

The following proclamation by the Governor-General, declaring martial law was published on the 30th August:—

"Acts of rebellion having been perpetrated during the last few days in different parts of this province by groups of armed men, gravely disturbing the public tranquillity and calling for the most severe and exemplary repression, in order to suppress at the outset such a criminal and disorderly movement, I therefore, in virtue of the powers vested in me, do order as follows:—

"Art. I.—From the publication of the present order the territory comprised in the provinces of Manila, Bulacan, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, La Laguna, Cavite, and Batangas is declared in a state of war.

"Art. II.—In virtue of this declaration persons accused of offences affecting the public

order, of treason, of offences which compromise the peace and independence of the state or against the form of government, of attacks upon or disrespect to the Authorities and their agents, and of offences to which rebellion or sedition gives rise, are subjected to military jurisdiction.

"Art. III.—Criminals guilty of flagrant rebellion, of the offences enumerated in the preceding article, or of offences provided for in the code of military justice, will be summarily tried by Court Martial.

"Art. IV.—In the same manner are declared subject to summary trial all criminals, heads of sedition or rebellion, caught in *flagrante*.

"Art. V.—Persons found or having been on the scene of combat and those who may be found in hiding after having been with the rebels will be treated as criminals presumed to be guilty of the crimes mentioned in the preceding article.

"Art. VI.—Courts martial as provided for in the respective cases by the code of military justice shall be competent to try the offences mentioned.

"Art. VII.—Rebels who present themselves to the Authorities within forty-eight hours of the publication of this proclamation shall be exempt from the penalty for rebellion, except the heads of seditious groups and those repeating their offences. The heads referred to, if they submit within the time allowed, will have their punishment commuted to the lowest or medium penalty provided in the case.

"Art. VIII.—The mere members of the rebellion who submit in the time allowed without having committed acts of violence, as well as those compromised who wish to escape denunciation in time to avoid its consequences, will be exempt from all punishment.

"Art. IX.—Any suspicious gathering will be dissolved at all costs by the public forces and those who do not surrender will be apprehended and placed at the disposition of the military authorities.

"Art. X.—The executive and judicial officers of the civil service will continue to exercise their usual functions in all matters not connected with public order, their powers in regard to the latter being limited to such duties as the military authorities may delegate to them, and in any case they are to give to the military direct all information that may come into their possession."

On the same day, the 30th August, the Governor-General issued a proclamation authorising the formation of a Volunteer Corps.

On the 2nd September the *Comercio* declared that Santo Potencia, the residence of the General second in command, had become the brain of Manila, General Blanco (the Governor-General) and all the principal authorities civil and military were there. It was there that the Volunteer Corps was enrolled on the afternoon of the 1st September, the number of members being three hundred. The Governor-General addressed them and declared that with such soldiers he would conquer the world. The Archbishop also spoke and gave the corps his blessing. On the 2nd arms were supplied to the corps.

On the 3rd September the steamer *Churruco* left Manila with 311 prisoners deported to the Carolines.

On the 3rd September a proclamation was issued extending to the night of the 6th the time during which rebels might make their submission under the terms in the previous proclamation.

On the 1st September the outbreak of the rebellion in the province of Cavite was reported. The villages appear to have risen in rapid succession. The course adopted by them was to overpower the civil guard and officials and seize all the arms they could lay hands on. Reinforcements were sent from Manila and on the 2nd September a battle was fought between the Government forces and a body of five hundred rebels at Las Pinas, the latter being defeated. The rebels are said to have lost twenty killed and ten prisoners were taken.

On the 3rd it was reported that the town of Cavite was relatively calm, but the telegraph being broken there was no communication with the villages. On that morning the gunboat *Leyte* sent some shots into the village of Noveleta, which produced a great effect, the rebels who occupied the village being seen to flee in all directions. The column which was engaged with

the rebels the previous day marched from Bacoor towards Imus, but on arriving at the bridge found it broken and it was then decided to proceed to San Nicolas and from there to descend on Imus. At San Nicolas they found the village had been sacked. The column spent the night there. On the 3rd they arrived at Imus, which they found deserted, and the rebels were in possession of the hacienda of the Recoletos, where they had fortified themselves. The hacienda was attacked and taken, the rebels suffering severe loss, whilst the Government troops lost three killed and ten wounded. On the morning of the 2nd the steamer *Mariposa*, chartered by the Dominican Fathers, left Manila for Cavite to bring away the friars resident in the village of Naic.

At Cavite on the 4th inst. a number of important arrests were made, amongst the prisoners being a Chinaman named Ossorio, the son of Antonio Ossorio. Further arrests were made next day.

The next few days' papers contain little definite news, but it would appear that during this time the rebels had taken complete possession of the province of Cavite, with the exception of the town of that name, to which the Government forces had been obliged to withdraw.

The *Comercio* of the 9th in stating the losses inflicted by the rebels in the village of Silan refers to the sad end of the parish priest, who was murdered by the mad crowd, and says that the officer in charge of the civil guard died heroically while trying to re-establish order. The family of the unfortunate officer with a sergeant and four guards took refuge in the tower of the church, where they locked themselves in, and the rebels blocked the entrance. Upon news of this being received a column of the 73rd Regiment was sent there under command of Captain Bernardez. The force arrived at night, but immediately opened fire on the rebels, killing fifty-eight of them and wounding a large number, and dislodging them from their positions, but at a cost to the Government troops of eight killed and twenty wounded. The troops then returned to Cavite and the wounded were sent from there to the military hospital at Manila.

The villages of the province of Cavite are generally administered by the Recoletana Order, and most of them have suffered from the consequences of the insurrectionary movement. The *Comercio* gives the names of four priests who had been murdered and of ten of whose fate nothing was known.

On the 8th the cruiser *Don Juan de Austria* continued the bombardment of the village of Cavite Viejo and other villages of the province, although less severely than on the previous day. At night the firing was continued with the electric search light.

At the village of Naic an attack was made by rebels from Imus, Noveleta, Indan, Maragondon, and other places, in conjunction with the disaffected in the village itself, and the names of three officers who were killed are given. The fiscal of the parish and the majordomos of the Dominicans' hacienda and convent were also killed.

In the town of Cavite great alarm had prevailed and many families took refuge in the Arsenal. The Spaniards were supplied with arms and a system of patrols and rounds was established and kept up night and day for a few days, but by the 11th, day patrols had been discontinued as tranquillity was restored and they were continued only at night. The number of persons engaged on this service was thirty-two and for some days they had not a moment's rest.

The men-of-war at Cavite were the *Reina Cristina*, *Castilla*, *Ulloa*, *Don Juan de Austria*, *San Quintin*, *Velasco*, *Leyte*, and *Albay*, and these vessels with their launches exercised a constant vigilance.

On the 10th there arrived at Cavite from Manila a Colonel of Engineers and five captains of various corps to constitute the Court Martial for the conspirators arrested some days before. A correspondent of the *Comercio* says that the designation of the peninsular Spaniards at the conduct of these men was hot, as they had all, or almost all, posed as great friends and almost as the protectors of the Spanish community.

At 5 p.m. on the 11th the Court Martial sat and the trial lasted until half-past ten. The thirteen prisoners tried were convicted and sentenced to be shot. Their names and descriptions were as follow:—

Severino Lapidario, first officer of the gaol.  
Alfonso Ocampo, second officer of the gaol.  
Luis Aguado, Arsenal contractor.  
Victoriano Luciano, chemist.  
Maximino Innocencio, rich proprietor.  
Francisco Ossorio, rich proprietor.  
Hugo Perez, doctor.  
Jose Lallana, tailor.  
Antonio San Agustin, merchant.  
Agapito Anchú, schoolmaster.  
Feliciano Cabuco, writer in the Arsenal.  
Mariano Gregorio, writer in the Engineers' Department.  
Eugenio Cabezas, watchmaker.

At 9 a.m. on the 11th the detachments of the Artillery and Volunteers who were to go to Cavite to form the square for the execution mustered at the Harbour Master's wharf at Manila. They consisted of a company of the Peninsular Artillery and two companies of Volunteers, with bands of music. At a quarter-past nine they left in the steamers *Mendez Nunez* and *Filipino* and at half-past ten arrived at Cavite and landed.

At half-past ten the sentence was notified to the prisoners, who were then placed in the chapel. The execution took place at six minutes past one. The condemned were attended in their last moments by a priest.

After the sentence was carried out the troops which had formed the square—which comprised, in addition to the detachments of Artillery and Volunteers from Manila, Engineers, Marine Infantry, Seamen, and a company of the provisional regiment—were dismissed to their respective barracks, and the Artillery and Volunteers returned to Manila.

It is reported that when the condemned men were notified of the sentence the greater number of them burst out crying, but one of them, Victoriano Luciano, said "We ought not to cry, because we have well deserved it."

In the above we have confined our report to occurrences in the neighbourhood of Manila and Cavite, but the rebels are also at work in other provinces.

On the 12th the Augustinians and the Recoletos were still without news of a considerable number of their members.

Various villages have sent in through the priests declarations of loyalty, and these are set out at length in the *Comercio*, occupying in the aggregate a large amount of space, but they are without interest and in some cases are probably of doubtful sincerity.

The Masonic Lodges are accused of having been implicated in fomenting the rising. The following recantation made by one of the members and given to the parish priest of Tondo is published:—"I, D. Gregorio Mariano, residing in the suburb of Tondo, fully convinced of the errors of Masonry, to which I have had the misfortune to belong, an infamous sect which more than any other human institution is a monster begotten in hell, wherefore it has been condemned and anathematized by the Pontiffs, from this day I solemnly abjure the said errors, returning again to the loving bosom of the Catholic Church, which in evil mind I abandoned. For the satisfaction of the Church and of the Society I make public this retraction. Manila, 4th September, 1896."

The following telegrams have been received from Spain, all but the first being press messages to the *Comercio*:—

Madrid, 30th August.

The Minister of War to the Governor-General—Referring to telegram of yesterday, instead of the thousand men asked for two thousand will be sent, within three days a battalion of Marine Infantry and within eight days one of Cazadores, both armed with Mauser rifles with two million cartridges. There will be sent immediately 6,000 Remington rifles, models of 1871 and 1889, and the cruisers *Isla de Cuba* and *Isla de Luzon*. The Government is determined to send whatever forces are necessary to rapidly suppress the insurrection and rely on your judgment and energy to act quickly, proceeding with the greatest severity against the delinquents. The formation of a battalion of

volunteers is approved and I will see with pleasure others formed, for much is hoped from the patriotism of the Spanish residents of the archipelago.

Madrid, 31st August.

The cruiser *Isla de Cuba* has left. Thousands of persons have offered themselves as volunteers to go to Manila.

Madrid, undated.

The Minister of War has already organised 6,000 men who will leave for Manila the moment General Blanco asks for them.

Madrid, 2nd September.

Congress has congratulated the Philippine army.

The steamer *Cataluna* has left with a battalion of Marine Infantry for Manila.

The Minister of War has already prepared two more battalions to leave for Manila.

Madrid, 4th September.

Three battalions are ready to leave as soon as General Blanco asks for them.

Madrid, 6th September.

The steamer *Monserrat* will leave to-morrow with the battalion of Cazadores.

At the middle of this month the remaining forces prepared for the Philippines will leave.

Madrid, 8th September.

The steamer *Antonio Lopez* will shortly leave with a battalion of Marine Infantry and 500 Artillery.

On the 15th inst. the steamer *Isla de Luzon* will leave with two battalions of Cazadores.

Madrid, 10th September.

It has been decided to reorganise the Philippine army, preserving the present native forces and permanently adding 8,000 European troops.

#### THE "BLACK HOLE" OF MANILA.

The *Singapore Free Press* publishes the following:—

A former popular resident of Singapore—it is perhaps well to name no names—sends this to Singapore on a small slip of paper from Manila:—

Manila, 2nd September.

My Dear —, Exciting times we are living in. Went over the battlefield on Sunday. Eight rebels killed at St. Mesa. Counted 6 or 8 at San Juan, besides those on the Spanish side. The bodies (rebels) are being left out unburied to rot. G. G. says he wants no more prisoners.

#### THE "BLACK HOLE."

Over 100 of them, some say 169, shut up in small room under bastions of San Sebastian Intra Muros on Monday night. No water: one small window. Fifty-four found dead in the morning. With those prisoners since died, said to total 70.

Arrests and shootings keeping populace in awful funk. —goes by the mail. —under arrest. The only fear we have is of native troops joining rebels—then good-bye! Show this to St. C., as I have no time to write more now:

Spanish volunteers number about 1,000 to 1,300, they say. All houses outside San. Paloc deserted for miles. Most Spaniards moved "Intra Muros." Drawbridges up from 9 or 10 p.m. State of siege. Sentries everywhere. And yet we keep going!

Manila, 2nd September.

Dear —, By present mail I send you the last ten numbers of the *Diario*, which may be of interest to you, and will give you some idea of what has been going on. It has been rather exciting, but we are all right up to now, and the only nervous one I know of is Mrs. —, who, with M. —, has taken up her quarters on a steamer in the bay. The *Redpole* is due here to-morrow.

Mandalaya got too hot, so all the fellows are at this side. Bob Woods' boy stole his rifle, but left a letter saying he was going to fight for his country, that the foreigners would not be touched, but for his master's own protection he left him his revolver and 50 cartridges, which he would find under his pillow. Cochrane and Macdonald had a pretty warm time of it. An artillerist was killed just in front of their house (Pandacan), and they saw the whole thing. Bullets were flying about so freely that they had to take refuge in the roof, for they could not get across to the Club. Four men (W.S. Macleod, C.H. Balfour, Hooper, a new man to W.B. and Co.'s) and some other fellows were living at Johnnie Macleod's house at Santa Mesa and saw a good portion of last

Sunday's battle. It was a battle, for the natives stood up and fought as well as their limited number of arms would allow. Nine men were killed quite close to their gate. Three out of four boys of the Beattie mess have joined the rebels. I am afraid the thing is not over yet. We have still to hear what has been done in the Province. The Spaniards are in mortal funk.

#### AFFAIRS IN FORMOSA.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.]

TAIPEHFU, 15th September.

The civil court opened at Changwha for the first case August 23rd, and I made it a special point to be present.

Changwha the big inland city is about one hundred miles south of Taipéhfú and is situated at about the centre of population.

Court was held in a large yamen which had been refitted for the purpose. The day and place had been extensively advertised and all Chinese, regardless of class, were invited to attend, the only conditions being that they had to come in their best clothes and with the idea of being quiet and orderly. Court was advertised for nine in the morning, but long before that hour Chinese, dressed in their best and with clean shaven heads, were seen gathered in little groups near the yamen all showing the greatest curiosity on the new sort of mystery that was about to be solved before them. In fact the general demeanour of the whole public, many of whom were collected about a big bulletin board bearing a proclamation of invitation, was, at least at this stage of the proceedings, indicative of a general conviction that the whole affair was a sort of spectacle prepared and sent thither for their express entertainment. The occasional glimpse of a gorgeously robed official and the elaborate decorations of the interior heightened the impression.

Upon the opening of the main doors the Chinese as they entered were conducted to benches which filled one large room and all given seats, and when the number was greater than the accommodation had been previously arranged for, numbers of Japanese were sent out skirmishing in the different offices to obtain seats that all arrivals might be provided for. It was a kind and courteous treatment extended to all, whether rich farmer or coolie, that I could not but think showed how easily many difficulties could be overcome would other classes treat the deserving natives with as much consideration. All through the long and hot morning the audience sat quiet and respectful, without a whisper disturbing the proceedings, making the presence of the gendarmes, who glared at the guests as though they might have been prisoners out on a fresh air leave, quite unnecessary.

An attempt was made to arrange the room with the same splendour as exists in the court rooms of Japan and every detail of the whole proceedings was given as careful attention as though the accused had been one of their own nobles.

The idea was to impress the Chinese with the importance and the solemnity of that power which holds a life in balance, and that there were other and better methods of determining guilt than that of the torture block.

A platform covered with rich fabrics ran from side to side, while on this was placed a second and smaller platform entirely hidden by a large drapery of purple embroidered silk. About it all, extending from side to side, was a beautiful rich embroidered blue silk canopy. Tables were likewise covered with rich embroideries. On the platform sat the president of the court and five judges, two interpreters, and a secretary. The prisoner, a boy of 18 years, was the first case to be tried. He was brought in by the police and upon reaching the stand fell cringing to the floor imploring for mercy. He was kindly bid to stand and did so during the rest of the trial. The case as stated by the prosecution was that upon the arrival of Japanese officers at a certain village which was rebelling the young man accused cut off from other retreating natives was caught attempting to escape, and upon entering the house from which he had so hurriedly absented himself a long Chinese spear similar to those used by the rebels was found. (The instru-

ment then referred to was placed before the prisoner. The examination, which occupied the first day's session, was devoted entirely to cross-examination of the prisoner, who, as the trial progressed and from the kindly way in which the inquiries were presented, gained confidence and answered freely and in a manner which appeared to me to be frank and honest. I must say I was favourably impressed with the young lad and was greatly pleased at his acquittal and release. The case following also resulted in acquittal. That an idea of the usual judgments may be obtained I may say that up to September 9th but one received the death sentence, one imprisonment for eleven years, two for nine years, and the others were acquitted. It must be remembered that these are not cases previously unexamined, and when the number of accusations are noted and the few that eventually are allowed to reach the court, it appears as though it was the intention to look upon their errors leniently and give them every benefit of the doubt. Nearly 3,000 accusations were made as a whole; this number after investigation was cut down to 417, and of these, after preliminary examination, but 67 reached the higher court. Every attempt is made to obtain evidence, but it is a very difficult task and one requiring much time, and I presume most of the previous acquittals have been the result of insufficient evidence.

I cannot speak too highly of this court and the officials connected with it, and I hope that other correspondents and foreigners generally, if they are in the vicinity of Chungwha, will find time to spend a portion of the day in visiting it.

The Chief of Court, Jinjaburo Katoh, is a splendid man, I believe, and I have the greatest confidence in his ability, but specially must I speak of Yashimo Hamasaki, the prosecutor for the State. I have many acquaintances among the Japanese, and many friends whose friendship I value, but I have never met one who impressed me more as a man of sterling qualities than the gentleman of whom I speak. I had a most interesting conversation with him, continuing for the greater part of one day. I should like to speak much of him, but for fear of proving tedious to certain foreign friends who seem to be possessed of the idea that to be a true man and a Japanese at the same time is almost an impossibility, I will but add that I am confident as long as Mr. Hamasaki represents the State in the Formosa Supreme Courts Chinese need not fear injustice, and Japanese will find that they cannot break the laws of their country with impunity.

I cannot better describe the system of establishing the Formosa Courts than to present the regulations, which I give in a condensed form.

Art. 1st.—The Law Courts are under the control of the Governor of Formosa and have the function of judging all suits civil and criminal.

Art. 2nd.—The Law Courts consist of the District Courts, the Courts of Appeal, and the Supreme Court; and their jurisdictions are the same as administrative jurisdictions.

Art. 3rd.—The District Courts sit in those places where Prefectures, Sub-Prefectures, and Insular Offices are situated.

Their function is to pass first judgment on both civil and criminal cases and to make preliminary examinations of criminal cases.

The Governor may institute in cases of need branch offices of the District Courts sitting permanently or temporarily in any locality within their jurisdictions.

The Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court sit at the place where the Central Government of Taiwan is established. The former gives judgment on cases that are appealed from District Courts and the latter deals with the judgment as given by the Court of Appeals.

Art. 4th.—The judges are either Cho-ku-nin (a rank given only to officers who are entrusted with their positions by His Majesty the Emperor) or So-nin (a rank given only to officers who are appointed by the cabinet with His Majesty's approval).

No man can be a judge in Formosa unless he has the rank and has been appointed according to the "Regulations for Organization of Imperial Courts," with the exception of the judges of the District Courts, who are for the time being exempt from the above restrictions.

Art. 5th.—In each Court the President is appointed from among the judges. He overlooks the judicial administration of his own Court and lower Courts.

Art. 6th.—The trial and judgment shall be given by one in the District Courts, by three in the Court of Appeal, and by five judges in the Supreme Court.

In case of the latter two the President of the Court, or in case of his absence the judge next in rank, shall be the chairman.

Art. 7th.—The Prosecutors are either Cho-ku-nin or So-nin. They institute and carry on criminal suits and represent the State in all suits in which the State is a party.

The Prosecutors in the higher Courts overlook those of the lower Courts.

Chief of Police, Inspectors, and Police Inspectors may act as Prosecutors in District Courts.

Art. 8th.—The clerks are Hannin (a rank given officers who are appointed by the superior under whose direct orders they are controlled).

They make preparations for the trial of both civil and criminal cases, attending to the memoranda, adjusting documents, etc., etc.

Allow me to return to the days of the rebellion sufficient to present two proclamations which were issued by the rebels and scattered broadcast through the central districts:

"Officers' Headquarters.

#### "PROCLAMATION OF THE FORMOSA VOLUNTEERS.

"Several Japanese posts have already fallen into our hands as the result of our great courage and the bravery of our officers. After this success we must not retreat. With Heaven's aid the cruel dwarfs will be swept away. This is the right way.

"We are now about to attack Changwha and victory will crown our efforts.

"Let this be known to all the people, that they may not be possessed with fear. All merchants should continue their trade as in the past. Those who have been filled with false fears and have fled from their homes, must return and assist their neighbours that support may be bountiful. This is important.

"Let all people be informed of these things." (Place and date not published.)

#### "Formosa Volunteer Headquarters,

"Shalengho.

"We will reward all persons male or female who will bring to us Japanese heads, twelve dollars silver for each head.

"These words from Headquarters are truthfully spoken.

"22nd Kwang-su, 5th month 30th day.

"At Shalengho."

These proclamations speak for themselves.

JAMES W. DAVIDSON.

#### THE JAPAN TIDAL WAVE RELIEF FUND.

H.E. the Governor has received the following letter from the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of the Kobe Relief Fund:

Kobe, 4th September, 1896.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Excellency's letters of the 15th July and 20th August—the latter enclosing draft for \$128, being the balance of the subscription raised by the Hongkong community for the Tidal Wave Relief Fund; together with the Hon. Treasurer's statement of account, giving the list of subscribers.

I beg to enclose you my receipt for \$128. I gave a receipt for \$4,000 to the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation on receiving that amount through them by telegraphic transfer.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express to your Excellency, and through you to the community which you represent, the thanks of our Committee for the prompt and generous response to our appeal. We feel that this substantial proof of sympathy has brought relief, and in many cases has preserved life, to those who otherwise might have been bereft of both.

We have deemed it wise to give publicity to your Excellency's letter, as well as the list of subscribers, by publishing the same in the newspapers, in the hope that the Government

of Japan may be impressed by the sympathy shown towards their suffering fellow-citizens and may realize that difference of race, creed, or customs does not prevent prompt and generous assistance in time of need. Especially do we hope that the unfortunate results of the late war between Japan and China, as shown by the antipathy which exists between the natives of the two countries, may be speedily obliterated, and to such a renewal of friendly feeling the fact that Chinese members of your community have contributed to the relief of Japanese sufferers cannot fail to have a great and favourable effect.

In due season I shall have the honour to present to your Excellency, for the Hongkong community, a full and accurate report, with an audited statement of account, of the manner in which our Committee has discharged the task laid upon it.

At the present time I may briefly state that our fund, with all lists enclosed and collected, amounts to \$15,441, subscribed as follows:

|               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| From Hongkong | \$4,128.00 |
| " Shanghai    | 4,869.00   |
| " Kobe        | 6,444.00   |

\$15,441.00

Of this amount half has already been expended in cash and in purchase of tools, clothing, fishing twine, etc., distributed by our Mr. Sim, who personally visited the afflicted districts, dispensing relief and making note of further requirements. He has returned to Kobe, and at a meeting of the Committee, held on the 21st August, a sub-Committee of three, including Mr. Sim, was appointed to expend the balance of the fund on such purchases as were recommended by Mr. Sim, and in a short time these purchases will be distributed, and our work will be ended.

Mr. Sim reported that great appreciation of our work was shown not only by the sufferers but also by the officials in the provinces visited, and the Governor of Iwate Ken sent his formal thanks to our Committee.

Assuring your Excellency of our deep appreciation of the kindly co-operation on the part of the community of Hongkong in our efforts to alleviate the suffering in Japan,—I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

J. S. HAPPER,  
Sec. and Treasurer,  
Kobe Relief Fund.

To His Excellency Sir William Robinson,  
K.C.M.G., F.R.G.S., Governor Hongkong.

#### DOUBLE MURDER AT CAUSEWAY BAY.

At the Police Court on the 21st September two jockeys named Chan Tai Yau and Wong Chan Shun were charged before Hon. Commander Hastings with the wilful murder of two mafous named Ho Sui Sang and Chiu Sui Shan. The crime, a particularly desperate and atrocious one, was committed on Saturday night. All the men concerned in the case were in the employ of Mr. Kennedy, Causeway Bay. Early in the evening the two prisoners went on board a sampan in the breakwater at Causeway Bay to visit two women. The deceased and two other men named Lo Fuk and Chan Cha heard of the visit and went on board the sampan, as one of the girls was the sweetheart of Ho Sui Sang. The six men had a quarrel and in the end the two prisoners went on shore. It is supposed that they remained in hiding for the four men. At any rate, as the men came on shore they were, according to the statement of one of them, pounced upon by the prisoners, who were armed with knives, and attacked in a most ferocious manner. The murderous affray took place in the dark near Mr. Kennedy's stables and the prisoners' object was evidently to disembowel the four men. They succeeded in their purpose in so far that they ripped open one of the men, who died on Sunday, and the other was stabbed in the heart and died almost immediately. The prisoners also severely cut the other two men about the body. A Chinese watchman witnessed the struggle, but it was not until he heard somebody shout "Tai Yau has a knife" that he was aware of the seriousness of the struggle. The two prisoners ran away and the men who were most seriously injured managed to crawl into the

stables. The police were alarmed and Police Sergeant Baker turned all the men out of the station. The three injured men were found in the stables and they were at once taken in ambulances to the hospital, where one of the men, Chiu Sui Shan, died on Sunday morning, while the other two were by that time sufficiently well to be sent home. Wong Chan Shun was arrested by the police in the Causeway Bay stables and the first prisoner was arrested in Mr. Kennedy's Garden Road establishment. He went straight there after the murder and told Mr. Kennedy's assistant, a man named Bailey, what had happened. Bailey at once took measures to detain the man, who was afterwards given into the custody of a policeman who had been telephoned for. At the police station the first prisoner freely admitted that he was one of the murderers, but the second man said he had nothing to do with it. After taking a portion of the evidence the prisoners were remanded.

#### HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

##### PROTEST AGAINST THE INCREASE IN TELEGRAPH RATES.

On Saturday, the 19th September, 1896, a special meeting of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce was held in their Rooms, at the City Hall, for the purpose of protesting against the recent increase in telegraph rates, and also for the purpose of nominating a member for appointment to the Legislative Council. Mr. A. McConachie, Chairman of the Chamber, presided, and there were also present—Hon. T. H. Whitehead, Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, Mr. T. Jackson, Mr. N. A. Siebs, Mr. G. B. Dodwell, Mr. N. J. Ede, Mr. St. C. Michaelsen (members of the Committee), Mr. R. C. Wilcox (Secretary), Hon. E. R. Belilius, C.M.G., Hon. C. P. Chater, Messrs. G. H. Potts, P. C. Sethna, G. L. Tomlin, A. J. David, T. Arnold, Hart Buck, O. Wegener, F. Maitland, G. de Champeaux, M. Lacaze, J. H. Garrels, H. N. Mody, Geo. W. F. Playfair, D. R. Sassoon, M. D. Ezekiel, Wm. Whiley, H. Stolterfoht, W. H. Ray, W. Poate, J. H. Cox, A. Coxon, M. S. Sassoon, H. J. Holmes, W. Danby, H. L. Dennys, E. H. Joseph, W. R. Loxley, Granville Sharp, G. Stewart, H. Wicking, D. R. Crawford, E. Jones Hughes, H. R. Kinnear, R. L. Richardson, J. W. R. Taylor, H. Jessen, T. F. Hough, and M. M. Mehta.

The SECRETARY read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—I think I need hardly detain you by going at length into the question before us. We have met to-day to protest against the sudden and very heavy increase in their rates which the Joint Telegraph Companies, having first concluded a convention with the Chinese Telegraph Administration, thus paving the way by securing a monopoly, saw fit on the 1st ult. to spring upon us after only a single day's notice. Well, gentlemen, I can only hope that our protest will be emphatic and that it may prove effective. You have all of you no doubt read the correspondence, and can readily form your own judgment on the case. I will now call upon Mr. Jackson to move the first resolution.

Mr. T. JACKSON—I preface my remarks by stating that the Telegraph Companies have ever done their work well, and that a more obliging and more painstaking set of public servants I have never met. That is the rose colour of the affair. Now, I come to the subject of the meeting of to-day, and I must say that it came upon me as a very great surprise indeed to find them raising their rates the way they did. I have read their side of the case very carefully. Their contention is that they are only putting the rates homewards on the same basis as the rates outwards. That would be all very well if the rates outwards were at a reasonable figure; but surely at this period, at the end of the nineteenth century, 7s. a word from London to Hongkong is an excessive rate. (Hear, hear.) Every person must admit that. (Applause.) I thoroughly believe that in the course of a very few years people will say, "I remember when in Hongkong the telegraph rate from London to Hongkong was 7s. per word." It is a monstrous charge.

Therefore I say that instead of raising the homeward rates the Telegraph Companies might have met their constituents with a reasonable reduction of the outward rates, corresponding with the sterling value of the amount homeward. (Applause). The next question that arises is—Can they afford to do it? I say, Yes, emphatically. The Chinese Administration, I believe, returned something like twenty-four per cent. to their shareholders. At a recent meeting of the Great Northern Company held in Copenhagen they reported a reserve fund of nearly a million sterling; and as for the Eastern Extension Company I should say happy are the shareholders in that concern. They have gone on increasing their lines, and, as their position is a splendid one, they can afford to be just to their shareholders and generous to the public. There is another matter which no doubt some of the subsequent speakers may refer to, and that is the convention with the Chinese Administration. In connection with that it has come out that Chinese messages go over the lines at half-price. Well, the circular sent round by the Joint Telegraph Companies was to my mind wholly unsatisfactory. It seems to me as if they were handicapping us, and we are not receiving that consideration that we ought to under the most-favoured-nation clause. People like ourselves who contribute very considerably to the existence of the Telegraph Companies should be placed on the very best footing. I hope our very good friends the Joint Telegraph Companies, with whom our relations in the past have been of a most friendly and favourable description, will reconsider their action. Now I have formally to move the first resolution:—

"That this Chamber is of opinion that the action of the Eastern Extension and Great Northern Telegraph Companies in having, after only one day's notice, on the 1st August last, raised their rates 37½ per cent. and 43.26 per cent. for telegrams to Europe and America respectively, and 100 per cent. for telegrams between Hongkong and Shanghai, is utterly unjustifiable and that their reasons for so doing are inadmissible and wholly insufficient."

Hon. J. J. BELL-IRVING said—Gentlemen, I have listened with much interest to Mr. Jackson's remarks, with which I entirely concur. This Chamber, representing as it does the commercial interests of the colony, is called upon to strongly protest against any circumstance which may arise tending to hamper our trade. The recent action of the Telegraph Companies will hamper commercial intercourse, and the increase of the telegraph charges is not warranted, as Mr. Jackson has pointed out, by the handsome results which the published reports of the Eastern Extension and the Great Northern Telegraph Companies have shown during recent years. I think the mercantile community here, who have supported these companies for so many years, have good reason to now feel aggrieved. I am sure you will all heartily concur with the resolution proposed by Mr. Jackson, which I have much pleasure in seconding. (Applause).

The resolution was carried.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I rise to move—"That this Chamber views with the greatest anxiety and concern the action of Her Majesty's Government in sanctioning, without reference to the Chambers of Commerce in the Far East, a convention which gives an absolute monopoly to the Eastern Extension and Great Northern Telegraph Companies." In an interview which Her Majesty's Minister in China, Sir Nicholas O'Conor, granted this Chamber in November, 1892, their mouthpiece said:—

"On the subject of the Telegraphic Convention recently signed by the Russian Minister and Sheng Taotai, the Director-General of Chinese Telegraphs, we would like to say a few words to your Excellency. The mercantile community, long saddled with a \$2 per word rate between China and Europe, a rate imposed and kept up by an agreement between the Great Northern and the Eastern Extension Telegraph Companies, have been waiting impatiently for the day when the Chinese, connecting their lines with the Russian land lines, would be able to give us a much cheaper word rate. They could do it easily and profitably. The new Convention

rivets our letters for ten years to come. It is a term of the Convention, especially introduced into the instrument by Russia, that no messages from the ports for Europe shall be taken by the overland lines under \$2 a word. We hand to your Excellency a copy of a memorial and petition presented by this Chamber in 1890 to Her Majesty the Queen on this subject, and the reply, in which we are promised that no such Convention shall be ratified. The memorial embodies our whole case, and we pray you to study it, and to oppose with all your power the ratification of this Convention, which is also injurious to China herself." Clause 3 of the memorial in question reads:—

"The Foreign Trade of China and Japan with your Majesty's dominions and with your Majesty's subjects is carried on under and is regulated by the provisions of certain Treaties made between Your Most Gracious Majesty and the Emperors of China and Japan respectively, and by these Treaties certain well-defined rights are secured to the subjects of your Majesty trading in and to China and Japan." Clause 4 reads:—

"Of these rights the most valuable are those which secure to your Majesty's subjects all the benefits and advantages of any privilege or concession which may be, at any time, granted by China or Japan to the subjects of any other nation, and those which forbid the creation by China or Japan of any monopoly or exclusive privilege in favour either of their own subjects or of any foreign nation to the prejudice of the rights and privileges granted to your Majesty's subjects." Clause 14 reads:—

"Your Petitioners most humbly thank your Majesty for having refused your assent to the Convention and to any modification of it, and for your Majesty's most gracious assurance, through your Ministers in the Commons House of Parliament, that no consent will be given to the Convention without full consideration of all the interests involved and without consultation with the representatives of British commerce," and Clause 16 reads:—

"Your Petitioners beg further most respectfully to represent that the continued existence of the Convention, the subject of this Petition, and of the negotiations for its approval or modification, is an impediment to all improvement in telegraphic communication between the East and Europe, and in particular prevents the Chinese Government from completing its telegraphic system and connecting it with the general network of telegraphic communication throughout the world *via* Kiachta."

That the British Government, under the circumstances should have ratified in July this year, without consulting those whose interests are keenly and vitally affected thereby, a Convention between the Telegraph Companies and the Chinese Telegraph Administration, which gives the Companies an absolute monopoly, is incomprehensible, and it is impossible to conceive of the existence of any sufficient reason for such action. In common fairness to those who have to pay for telegrams, and to whom the Companies are very largely indebted for their financial success hitherto, they were entitled to be heard before any monopoly was conceded, but, doubtless fearing the consequences which might arise from our being heard, Lord Salisbury's sanction would appear to have been previously and stealthily obtained. Positively no political purpose whatever would appear to have been subserved; the Imperial Government has received no *quid pro quo* so far as can be ascertained; while there is reason to believe that other Governments receive privileges from the Companies. Our interests have been sacrificed for the benefit of the shareholders in the two Telegraph Companies—one a Danish Company, in which certain exalted personages are supposed to be pecuniarily interested, and the other an English Company. If the Telegraph Companies in late years had been unable to earn reasonable interest on the capital employed, their seeking to increase the tariff would have been intelligible and an increase would have been agreed to, but very contrary results have been obtained. The English Company has paid a dividend of 7 per cent. per annum for 1893, 1894, and 1895—the gross receipts in 1895 were £50,259 more than those in 1894—and it carried forward at 31st December last £129,329, thus increasing its reserve and balance after last dividend, and including insurance

funds, to £721,531. The Danish Company paid 8 3-5th per cent. per annum for 1892, 1893, and 1894, and 10 per cent. per annum for 1895—the gross receipts in 1895 were £55,935 more than in 1894—and it carried forward at 31st December last £58,055, thus increasing its reserve and balance, after last dividend, to £998,996. These are immense profits, and they were earned out of previous rates, thus demonstrating conclusively that the tariff levied up to 31st July this year was unnecessarily high and could have been modified, which would no doubt have been followed by a greatly increased traffic, high rates necessarily restricting telegraphic communication. The competition of the Chinese Telegraph Administration up to the 1st of last month had kept the rate to Europe at \$2 per word, but the Chinese Government having been forced into the new Agreement by the European Powers the Telegraph Companies—England having ratified the Convention which gives them an absolute monopoly—are now thereby enabled, at one day's notice, to raise the rates from the Far East to Europe 37½ per cent., to America 43.26 per cent., and for local telegrams 100 per cent. As the Editor of the *North China Herald*, in his issue of the 21st ult., very pertinently remarks:—

"The influence which the Cable Companies can bring to bear has been too much for our Home Government, and they have approved the new Convention. It is a disgrace to foreigners that they should have coerced the Chinese into this retrograde step. In China, monopolies are provided against in the treaties made by Foreign Powers; and here we have two of the same Powers, Great Britain and Russia, forcing a monopoly on China to the disadvantage of the mercantile community. Our hope lies in a Pacific cable. That one will be laid before long is certain, and the desire of the existing Cable Companies to raise the rates has been stimulated by the wish to collect large reserve funds to help them in fighting this future competitor. In fact, the merchants in China are being squeezed now to enable their telegraphic masters to fight the Company which promises to liberate trade from its new fetters. If the shareholders in the Cable Companies had been carrying on business for years at a loss we might sympathise with them; but they have made, as we showed recently, very handsome profits. Mr. Alford, Chairman of the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce, wrote to the Cable Companies on the 11th:—'Your directors are apparently ignorant or have ignored the fact that though the volume of trade may be increasing the margins of profit have narrowed to an extent which often causes telegraphic expenses to check business, and your action therefore means that messages will be restricted in every possible manner both in number and in length. Thus, whilst your revenue will probably derive little or no advantage, you will have turned satisfaction into dissatisfaction among those to whom you are almost entirely indebted for your success in the East.'"

The Telegraph Companies have been managed with consummate ability, and their secret negotiations with the British Government have been conducted with great diplomatic skill. In a communicated article in the *North China Herald* of 25th August, 1892, the following appeared:—

"It was the Foreign Ministers at Peking, of the countries to which the Great Northern Telegraph Company and the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company belong, who in 1883 moved the Tsung-li Yamén to sanction a working agreement with the English and Danish Cable Companies, to last for twenty years, without imposing on the Companies any restriction whatever as regards their tariffs."

While appreciating the importance of the Company's telegraphic system, and recognising its claim to favourable consideration, the Government should have stopped short at ratifying any convention which would create anything in the shape of a monopoly, or which would prevent the establishment of additional lines or other improvement in the service hereafter deemed necessary. What has been done is a retrograde step of immense magnitude, and must be attended with the most injurious results, for many years to come, not only to the Chinese Government, but to the enormous trade carried on between the Eastern and Western

hemispheres. No one can begin to urge that the Telegraphic Companies were rendering a great public service for which they were insufficiently remunerated. Let me again repeat that by ratifying the Convention the British Government has not in any way subserved any political purpose. The only persons who will derive benefit therefrom are the shareholders in two Telegraph Companies, one Danish and the other English, and both purely private institutions. The ratification of the Convention has enabled the Companies at one day's notice to raise and exact rates which cannot but be regarded as excessive and injurious to the best interests of foreign trade and commerce. This Chamber therefore feels fully justified in placing on record its earnest and emphatic protest against Her Majesty's Government having assented to the recent Convention between the Eastern Extension and Great Northern Telegraph Companies and the Chinese Telegraph Administration, inasmuch as the said Convention gives the Telegraph Companies an absolute monopoly which was immediately utilized by the Companies to the extent of 37½ per cent. to Europe, 43.26 per cent. to America, and 100 per cent. on local messages. (Applause.)

MR. D. R. SASOON—I have much pleasure in seconding the motion. Mr. Whitehead has put the case so clearly before us that I do not think I can say anything to make matters clearer. I think we are all fully persuaded that the action of the Telegraph Companies is not at all right and that they have placed restrictions where restrictions ought to have been taken off. I have much pleasure in seconding. (Applause.) Carried unanimously.

THE CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, I have been asked to move the third resolution, and do so with pleasure, believing that, in order to render our protest effective, we must make the Telegraph Companies understand that we are in earnest. This is not a mere formal protest, and we do not intend, if we can help it, to let the matter rest here, with a mere expression of indignation. The resolution I have to propose pledges the members of this Chamber to assist and support any company that may lay a cable hither either from Vancouver or San Francisco, and that, while guaranteeing us an efficient service, will agree to charge reasonable rates for telegrams. I hope we all regard this seriously, and it will become our interest and duty to do our best to encourage the projectors of these Pacific cables to push their schemes into accomplishment. I notice from the proceedings of the third Congress of Chambers of Commerce held in London in June last that a resolution was adopted in favour of a Canadian-Australian cable as a step towards a competitive route to India. This if carried into effect would be a move forward in the direction we are aiming at. There is no doubt that a cable across the Pacific would in any case in time prove a successful enterprise, and if we could guarantee it the main if not the entire business of the Far East I think the inducement to lay such a cable, will be very great. It would, moreover, complete the telegraphic girdle round the world, and that is much to be desired as tending to further economy of time in means of communication. Of course if the Telegraph Companies meantime agree to reduce the rates they have recently increased so heavily, the Pacific Cable may be deferred for some time, though there is little doubt that it will be laid before the next century gets into its teens. Let us hope, however, that the Telegraph Companies will see the sweet reasonableness of making a timely concession to those who have been such excellent constituents to them in the past. With these remarks, gentlemen, I beg to propose the third resolution, as follows:—"That the members of this Chamber, in the event of the Eastern Extension and Great Northern Telegraph Companies refusing to reduce to a reasonable level the high rates now levied by them, pledge themselves to give their fullest assistance and support to any Company that, while providing an efficient service, will agree to charge moderate telegraphic rates between the Far East and Europe and America." (Applause.)

MR. ST. C. MICHAELSEN—I have great pleasure in seconding this resolution. This resolution, in my opinion, is the most important one, and I am sure that every one in this room will heartily and fully support it, and thus show the two Cable Companies

how the feeling is running amongst the commercial community and their supporters. The Committees of this Chamber, I am quite sure, will do its utmost to make this resolution known as widely as possible all over the world, so that any parties who may have a special interest in this question, shall become aware of it. I have also no doubt that not only the members of this Chamber but everyone in the Far East will heartily welcome and support any competition that may be established which has for its purpose opposition to the two cable companies. (Loud applause).

MR. GRANVILLE SHARP—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, we shall all feel the truth of the remarks made by Mr. Jackson about the unfailing courtesy, from generation to generation, of the managers of the United Telegraph Companies. The time having passed, which has been so felicitously described as the period of profitable seclusion, it seems the only course open to the members of the China trade is to develop, by every possible means in our power, and to increase in every possible way, the volume of business between the Chinese Empire and the home countries in order that those who have in the past profited by the liberal margins which existed in business may in the future do as well as formerly—who knows that they may not do better?—by the increased volume of trade which is done by them. This, gentlemen, can only be accomplished in one way, and that is by the increase in every possible manner of cheap and rapid steam and electric communication between China, not only the ports of China but the length and breadth of the Chinese Empire, and Western countries. This is essential. And there is no way out of it. It cannot be done without. We must have constant communication; we must have rapid communication; and we must have cheap communication. Everyone in the China trade, whether here or in the north, it seems to me, has three interests to serve. He has to serve himself—he has to serve those by whom he is employed, and—a far larger and wider interest—he has to serve those people who, directly or indirectly, are connected with his employers at home, of whom there is hardly any limit. I say emphatically there is not a man, woman, or child in the United Kingdom who is not interested in the China trade—in the China export and in the China import trade. Therefore he may have a feeling that he is patriotically as well as profitably engaged in the pursuit of his duties in China. It is only now that the Chinese Empire has sent forth her most influential statesman upon a tour to the Courts and the capitals of Europe and the United States for the purpose of evincing her desire to increase the intimacy of her communication and the magnitude of her transactions with other countries; and the way in which he has been received has proved that these feelings are abundantly reciprocated by Europe and by the United States. In the midst of this gratulation and joy comes a dark cloud and a discordant note from the very quarter from which we might least have expected it. If there is any company in the Far East which is interested directly in the increase of the volume of business of China it is indeed the United Telegraph Companies, and it seems to me that their action in this respect is wholly undefended and is absolutely indefensible. (Applause.) And therefore I can only hope that our motives will be thoroughly understood, that we are not only acting selfishly, that we are not only acting for those whom we represent, but that we are acting for other countries at home, for our fellow-countrymen, for the world at large, when we endeavour to discourage and oppose the combination which I cannot help characterising as *contra bonos mores* and opposed to the best interests of mankind. (Applause.)

The resolution was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

THE CHAIRMAN—That closes the business as regards the telegraphic rates.

Several members thereupon left the room.

#### THE RE-NOMINATION OF MR. WHITEHEAD TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE CHAIRMAN—A pleasant duty has, gentlemen, fallen to my lot this afternoon. The Hon. T. H. Whitehead, who has for six

[September 24, 1896.]

years represented the Chamber on the Legislative Council, has done so with great vigour and ability, never losing sight of its interests, and ready at all times to use his utmost energies in its behalf. It is therefore with much satisfaction that I now beg to propose that Mr. Thomas Henderson Whitehead be again nominated by this Chamber for appointment to the seat in the Legislative Council he has so worthily filled for the past six years.

**Mr. DODWELL**—I feel it an honour to be allowed to second the nomination of Mr. Whitehead to represent this Chamber in the Legislative Council of this colony. At the time of the last election for the post, one of the members of this Chamber said that Mr. Whitehead's profession did not give that wide experience and education in men and affairs which were needed, and that the inelastic and narrow horizon which the boards of the ledgers furnished were not calculated to give a banker that knowledge of affairs which the representative of the Chamber and of the mercantile interests should have. (A laugh.) But, gentlemen, I think you will agree with me that the work done by Mr. Whitehead in the past six years has amply dissipated any such fears, fears which were not entertained by the majority which then elected him; and I think we owe Mr. Whitehead our heartiest thanks for the courageous as well as the able manner in which he has carried out his duties as our representative. (Applause.) Under our present circumstances, the post is a very thankless and unenviable one; our representative must devote a great deal of his time and much energy and thought to the fulfilment of his duties, and he must be prepared to accept more kicks and cuffs than thanks, and in addition must submit to much hostile criticism even from his own supporters. But this has ever been the lot of progressives, and I am glad to feel that in Mr. Whitehead we have a representative who, in spite of all these drawbacks, will devote his time and energy and experience to the duties of the post, and who will, without fear or favour, at all times do his utmost to protect the interests which he represents. (Applause.) I again beg to second the nomination of Mr. Whitehead. (Loud applause.)

The CHAIRMAN then took a show of hands and declared the resolution to be carried unanimously.

**Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD**—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I desire to express my sincere thanks both to Mr. McConachie and Mr. Dodwell for the very kind words which they have used under the circumstances. I am well aware and conscious that in the past six years I have made many mistakes and that my shortcomings have been great and numerous, but with the experience I have gained I shall endeavour to the best of my ability to do everything that is possible to promote the trade and commerce of this important port in the interests of the colony. I feel very greatly and very much appreciate this renewed mark of confidence that you have expressed in me, and I heartily thank you for the honour which you have done to the banking institution which I have the privilege to represent in the colony. (Loud applause.)

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business gentlemen. I have to thank you for your attendance.

#### THE UNITED ASBESTOS ORIENTAL AGENCY, LIMITED.

The statutory meeting of shareholders in the United Asbestos Oriental Agency, Limited, was held on the 16th September at the Hongkong Hotel. Mr. G. B. Dodwell presided, and amongst those present were—Messrs. A. Anderson, D. Gillies, J. P. Dowling, Thomas Skinner, W. Parlane, F. Dodwell, A. O'D. Gourdin, and G. H. Medhurst.

The CHAIRMAN said this was simply a statutory meeting called in accordance with section 38 of the Companies Ordinance, 1865. The whole of the shares had been applied for and the business started on a satisfactory basis. The first instalment of stock arrived at the beginning of June and agencies would be started in Singapore and Japan. If any shareholders desired any information it would be freely accorded by the General Managers, Messrs. Dodwell, Carlill & Co. That was all the business before the meeting and he thanked the shareholders present for their attendance.

#### UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON, LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the twenty-third ordinary meeting to be held at the Society's offices at noon on Thursday, 8th October:—

The directors have now to submit to the shareholders a report of the business of the Society for the year 1895, and for the six months ending the 30th June, 1896.

1895.—The net premium collected for the year, after deducting returns and reinsurance, amounts to \$1,588,229.25. After providing for a bonus of 20 per cent. on contributions paid in April last, there remains at credit of working account a balance of \$613,500.65 as per annexed statement.

From this sum the directors recommend the payment of second bonus of 5 per cent. on contributions, a dividend of \$15 per share, equivalent to 30 per cent. on the paid up capital of \$50 per share, and an addition to the reserve fund of \$150,000, raising the reserve to \$1,200,000. The balance remaining of \$247,950.00 they propose to carry forward and thus close the account for the year 1895.

1896.—The position of the Society for the present year, as far as it can be ascertained, is as follows:—

Balance of working account to the 30th June as per annexed statement, ..... \$ 748,585.30

Add estimate of premium to 30th September, ..... 420,000.00

\$ 1,168,585.30

Estimate of losses to pay, ..... 434,000.00

\$ 684,585.30

#### DIRECTORS.

Since the last general meeting Mr. A. G. Wood and Mr. D. R. Sassoon have resigned their seats and Mr. A. Ross, Mr. H. Stolterfoht, and Mr. C. S. Sharp have joined the Board.

In accordance with clause 86 of the articles of association, Mr. N. A. Siebs and Mr. R. L. Richardson retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

#### AUDITORS.

Messrs. J. H. Cox and W. Hutton Potts retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

H. L. DALRYMPLE,  
Chairman.

Hongkong, 21st September, 1896.

#### WORKING ACCOUNT, 1895

ON 30TH JUNE, 1896.

Dr. \$ c.

To working account, balance on 30th June, 1895 ..... 683,236.15

To net premium from 1st July to 31st December, 1895 ..... 699,631.91

To interest ..... 97,512.26

\$1,480,430.32

#### Cr.

\$ c.

By agency commissions ..... 24,008.90

By agency charges ..... 14,140.22

By head office charges ..... 28,718.20

By Shanghai charges ..... 16,769.00

By London charges ..... 58,440.73

By Yokohama charges ..... 10,784.72

By Melbourne charges ..... 11,681.02

By remuneration for half-year ending 31st December, 1895, to directors, committees, and auditors ..... 14,809.31

By losses and claims paid ..... 439,995.15

By exchange ..... 234.80

By bonus on contribution account 1895 (declared 29th April, 1896) 20 per cent.

By balance ..... 247,367.62

613,500.65

\$1,480,430.32

#### WORKING ACCOUNT, 1896.

ON 30TH JUNE, 1896.

#### Dr.

\$ c.

To net premium from 1st January to 30th June, 1896 ..... 943,505.35

To interest ..... 50,545.75

\$94,051.10

#### Cr.

\$ c.

By agency commissions ..... 15,175.19

By agency charges ..... 8,477.87

By head office charges ..... 29,309.25

By Shanghai charges ..... 15,898.53

By London charges ..... 14,749.50

By Yokohama charges ..... 7,668.07

By Melbourne charges ..... 12,555.16

By remuneration for half-year ending 30th June, 1896, to directors, committees, and auditors ..... 9,916.35

By losses and claims paid ..... 161,287.67

By exchange ..... 428.21

By balance ..... 748,585.30

\$94,051.10

#### BALANCE SHEET ON 30TH JUNE, 1896.

Dr. \$ c.

To capital 10,000 shares of \$250 each ..... \$2,500,000 upon which \$50 per share called and paid up ..... 500,000.00

To reserve fund ..... 1,050,000.00

To unclaimed bonus and dividend ..... 13,488.46

To exchange fluctuation account ..... 450,821.35

To investment fluctuation account being the increase in market value of securities ..... 257,145.04

To working account, 1895, balance ..... 613,500.65

To working account, 1896, balance ..... 748,585.30

To sundry creditors ..... 369,445.99

\$4,002,786.78

Cr. \$ c.

By cash on current account with the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation ..... 32,936.32

By cash on deposit, viz.:—

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation ..... \$213,000.00

Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China ..... 86,000.00

Mercantile Bank of India, Limited ..... 50,000.00

\$359,000.00

By cash on mortgage, viz.:—

In Hongkong ..... \$490,034.26

In Shanghai ..... 468,965.62

\$958,999.78

By cash invested in debentures, viz.:—

Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Limited ..... \$ 52,500.00

Shanghai Land Investment Company, Limited ..... 60,689.66

Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Company, Limited ..... 199,172.41

Shanghai Municipal Loan ..... 45,517.24

\$357,879.31

212,329.48

By amount at debit of branches and agencies

By amount invested in London, viz.:—

In Consols, India Government Guaranteed Railways and other securities £109,551.13.1

Deposited in Banks ..... 36,000.00

£145,551.13.1

1,318,203.66

438,840.48

By amount invested in Melbourne, viz.:—

In Government Treasury Bonds and other securities ..... £ 7,015.18.2

Deposited in Banks ..... 10,000.00

£17,015.18.2

154,106.34

16,623.86

By bills receivable

By bills remitted to London agency, 30th June account ..... 743.78

By sundry debtors ..... 153,123.78

\$4,002,786.78

#### THE DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the thirteenth ordinary general meeting, to be held at the offices of the Company, on Saturday, the 26th September.

The General Managers have now to submit to the shareholders their report on the thirteenth year's working of the Company, ended 30th June, 1896. After paying all running expenses, premia of insurance, remuneration to consulting committee and auditors' fees, there remains a net profit of \$255,327.09, and, with the consent of the shareholders, it is proposed to appropriate this amount as follows:—

To write off \$43,721.50 from the value of the Company's property (excluding the *Hainan*) on 30th June last, being the equivalent of 8 per cent. thereon, and to pay a dividend of 12 per cent. on the capital of the Company, which will absorb a further \$120,000.00, to transfer \$50,000.00 to the credit of the reserve fund, and carry forward to next year's account the balance of \$41,605.59.

During the period under review there has been some troublesome competition, especially on the Formosa line; but the Company still maintains its position in the esteem of shippers generally. To meet opposition and fulfil temporary requirements, the steamers *Continental* and *Cosmopolitan* were chartered for short periods.

The new steamer *Hainan* arrived in April last and immediately commenced running on the Tamshui line; she is splendidly adapted for the work, and is a valuable acquisition to the Company's fleet.

The steamers have been maintained in their usual state of efficiency, the *Nanoo* having undergone a very extensive overhaul.

In usual course it may be stated that the amounts appearing as freight due and accounts receivable on 30th June have all been since collected.

## CHINA OVERLAND TRADE REPORT.

## CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

Since the last general meeting Mr. Shewan has resigned his seat, and Mr. Tomes now fills the vacancy. The Committee now consists of Messrs. D. R. Sasseoon, Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, A. Ross, and C. A. Tomes.

In terms of the Articles of Association all these gentlemen retire, but, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

## AUDITORS.

The present accounts have been audited by Messrs. J. H. Cox and W. H. Gaskell, who retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

DOUGLAS LAPRAIK & Co.,  
General Managers.

## BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1896.

|   | ASSETS.               | \$ c. |
|---|-----------------------|-------|
| Value of the Co.'s steamers <i>Hai-tan</i> , <i>Hai-long</i> , <i>Namo</i> , <i>Thales</i> , <i>Formosa</i> , and <i>Hai-mun</i> .....      | 881,981.22            |       |
| Value of buoys and moorings at <i>Swatow</i> , <i>Amoy</i> , <i>Tamsui</i> , and <i>Hongkong</i> , steam launch and sundry spare gear ..... | 9,018.79              |       |
| Loans on mortgage .....   | 891,000.01            |       |
| The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (current account) .....   | 37,000.00             |       |
| The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (deposit and interest account) .....  | 16,884.47             |       |
| Freights due 30th June, 1896 .....  | 317,826.66            |       |
| Sundry accts. receivable from agencies, &c.   | 334,711.13            |       |
| Late Amoy Agents .....  | 64,542.77             |       |
| Cash on hand .....  | 60,274.69             |       |
|   | 15,197.02             |       |
|   | 272.24                |       |
|   | <b>\$1,402,997.86</b> |       |
|   | LIABILITIES.          | \$ c. |
| Capital account:—2,000 shares at \$50 .....   | 1,000,000.00          |       |
| Reserve fund .....  | 50,000.00             |       |
| Underwriting account of the Company .....   | 43,020.86             |       |
| Sundry accounts payable .....   | 43,738.91             |       |
| Unpaid dividends .....  | 131.00                |       |
| Suspense account (late Amoy Agents) .....   | 10,000.00             |       |
| Unpaid bonus (account 1895) .....   | 780.00                |       |
| Profit and loss account 30th June, 1895, brought forward .....  | 40,593.70             |       |
| Balance on 30th June, 1896 ...  | <b>214,733.39</b>     |       |
|   | 255,327.09            |       |
|   | <b>\$1,402,997.86</b> |       |

| PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED<br>30TH JUNE, 1896.                    |                     |  |
|---|---------------------|--|
| To remuneration to General Managers for office expenses, &c., for 12 months ..... | \$ c.               |  |
| To remuneration to Consulting Committee for 12 months .....                       | 10,000.00           |  |
| To auditor's fees .....   | 2,000.00            |  |
| To exchange account .....   | 600.00              |  |
| To charges account .....  | 1,375.42            |  |
| To balance .....  | 237.48              |  |
|   | <b>255,327.09</b>   |  |
|   | <b>\$269,539.99</b> |  |

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| By balance of profit and loss account 30th June, 1895 ..... | \$ c.               |
|   | 40,593.70           |
| By profit on running the Co.'s steamers to date .....       | 201,482.12          |
| By profit on coals supplied to steamers .....               | 4,981.89            |
| By profit on interest account .....                         | 21,380.56           |
| By profit on mortgages account .....                        | 1,101.72            |
|   | <b>\$269,539.99</b> |

## THE NEW BALMORAL GOLD MINING CO., LIMITED.

At noon on the 21st September an extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders in the New Balmoral Gold Mining Company, Limited, was held at the Company's office. Mr. G. R. Stevens presided and there were also present—Messrs. C. Ewens, Hart Buck (Consulting Committee), W. H. Potts (Secretary), J. H. Cox, G. L. Tomlin, W. B. Polishwalla, E. Jones Hughes, H. Humphreys, and S. Rustomjee.

The SECRETARY read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, before proceeding with the business of the meeting, I will briefly put before you our present position. By a telegram received from the mines, the purport of which has already been given you through the newspapers, we feel assured the sale of our properties (together with those of the Olivers Freehold Mines Company) to the Anglo-Australian Company of London will not take place, and are daily waiting a telegram from London confirming this. In the long run I think shareholders will be the

gainers, for (as I told you at a private meeting some weeks ago) your mines are now being worked efficiently and economically by the staff of Messrs. John D. Humphreys and Son, who speak most hopefully of success in the near future, and I think, gentlemen, the willingness of Messrs. John D. Humphreys and Son to take over the General Management, pay off the existing loan, to take the amount in preference shares, and finance for the working of the Company, until an issue of preference shares (to provide funds which will be necessary) can be made, should satisfy you of the good opinion Mr. Humphreys (now in Australia) must have of your properties. Messrs. John D. Humphreys and Son are fortunate in having secured the services of Messrs. Willmott Senr. and Junr., Mr. Oglethorpe, and the other members of their mining staff, and as your properties and the Olivers Freehold adjoin, they should be well able to work them together to better advantage than separately, and being the employes of John D. Humphreys and Son, I think it only right this firm should have the General Management. With these few remarks, gentlemen, I will propose the confirmation of the first resolution, but before doing so, will be pleased to answer any questions.

There were no questions and the CHAIRMAN moved the confirmation of the resolution appointing Messrs. J. D. Humphreys and Son General Managers.

Mr. RUSTOMJEE seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN moved the confirmation of the second resolution concerning the alterations in the Articles of Association.

Mr. COX seconded.

Carried.

Mr. RUSTOMJEE then suggested that Messrs. J. D. Humphreys and Son should call a meeting of shareholders on taking over the General Management if asked to do so by the holders of 5,000 shares.

The CHAIRMAN said Mr. Rustomjee was really out of order, as he should have brought up the question at the first meeting, this being simply the confirmatory meeting. This was the first he (the Chairman) had heard of the question.

Some conversation ensued between Mr. Ewens and Mr. Buck and it was eventually agreed to accept Mr. Rustomjee's suggestion.

The CHAIRMAN—That concludes the business of the meeting, gentlemen. I thank you for your attendance.

## RAUB.

The Mining Manager's report for the four weeks ending the 3rd September is as follows:

Raub Hole, No. 2 Shaft.—This section still continues to look very well. In the intermediate drives going south from the winze, we have now driven about 100 feet through the gold-bearing chute of ore, but the end of the drive has just passed through it into formation only. The ore chute is equal both in extent and value to any part of it we have previously worked, and I see no reason why it should not extend down for hundreds of feet. The stopes being worked over the back of this level are looking very well, the lode being from one to three feet wide, and all showing fair gold. There is now a good extent of ground to work over this level.

The No. 3 or 220 feet Level.—This is now in 209 feet from the crosscut. In the face of the drive the lode is from 12 to 15 inches wide, and looks more promising for gold than it has yet done. Although no gold can be seen, I don't think we shall be long before we get into it. Altogether this section looks more promising than it has done for a long time.

Bukit Koman.—In this section prospects still continue to look very well. In the No. 1 level going north, the lode is about 8 feet wide of crushing stuff. The lode looks solid, and the ore more promising than it has done for some time. We are now across the swamp and under the hills at Bukit Jalil Ketchil. I expect, as we get further into this under the old native workings, that the lode will improve. The face of this drive is now in something over 400 feet from the crosscut. In the south level the lode in the face of the drive is 8 feet wide, solid and well-defined between clean slate walls. Fair gold can be seen the full width of the drive. This drive

is also in about 400 feet from the crosscut. In the leading stope coming over the bulk of this level the lode will average 14 to 15 feet wide; gold can be seen all through the ore. The whole of the stuff from these drives and stopes is being sent to the mill for crushing. No work is being done in any of the other stopes, as we cannot crush the stuff. In the No. 2 level we have now taken down the lode the full width in both ends. In the north end the lode is 6 feet wide in the back and 12 to 13 feet wide in the bottom of the drive. The lode is solid clean quartz, and carries fair gold all through, and is well defined between clean slate walls. South in this end the lode is of a uniform thickness of 13 feet, about 4 feet on the footwall is a mixture of slate quartz and diorite; the remainder is solid quartz in which fair gold can be seen. All the ore except the 4 feet on the footwall side of the lode in the south drive has been sent to the mill and crushed. The total distance driven is 42 feet. These drives, No. 1 level drives, and leading stopes are furnishing all the crushing stuff required from this section.

Bukit Malacca.—This shaft is now down 125 ft. only; slow progress is being made with the sinking owing to the heavy water we have to contend with. It takes the two 8-in. pumps all they can do to keep it out. This makes the work slow and expensive. It is quite evident if this ground is to be worked in the wet weather, much heavier pumps than any at Raub will be required. The ground in the bottom of the shaft is good blasting slate. Were it not for the heavy water, good progress would be made in sinking.

Western Lode.—There is no change to report from this section. Work is proceeding as usual with one stage, and the usual quantity of crushing stuff has been sent from here to the mill. The stopes are maintaining more than their usual size. There will be a much larger quantity of crushing stuff got from these stopes than I estimated there would be.

Battery.—This has been running full time except at hours referred to in last report. On Monday last, 31st ult., a general clean up for the eight weeks ending the above date took place. 2,030 tons crushed yielded 1,176 ozs. 17 dwts. This is an improvement of 167 ozs. 17 dwts. over the former clean up, with a considerably less tonnage crushed, which is owing to the much harder nature of the rock crushed. The improved yield is entirely due to the higher grade of ore crushed from the Raub Hole. Crushing was resumed at 10 p.m., and has continued steadily since. The weather continues very hot and dry, and the water supply in the dam is very low. Several times during the past three months we have been on the eve of stopping the mill for want of water when fortunately a small shower has given us sufficient to continue crushing. The rivers are all very low, and we find a difficulty in getting up supplies.

W.M. BIBBY.

## HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

Commodore Boyes was entertained at dinner on Wednesday evening last by about 30 members of the Golf Club. Captain Rumsey, the Captain of the Club, who occupied the chair, in proposing the health of the guest of the evening, referred in graceful terms to the interest the Commodore has always taken in golf and the benefit that the Club had derived from his two years' Captaincy. The ex-Captain, or he would say the "XX Captain," had seen the Club grow up and flourish after the style of the green bay tree, and it was owing in a very great measure to his keenness and geniality that the Club was in such a good way. The toast was drunk amidst great enthusiasm, with musical honours and three times three.

The Commodore on rising to respond was received with such an enthusiastic demonstration that it was some time before he could make himself heard. He reviewed the life of the Club, which he said resembled a baby when he joined it and now when he was leaving the colony he found it a well-grown boy. A grand game like golf, he said, would never languish, and the probable result was that before long the number of members would largely increase. The game was one that every

one could play, because you could always find some one to play with—and beat. He told the story of a certain old Colonel who played a lot on a well known links in the South of England, and who, when chaffed about his exceedingly bad play, said "Well! I may be a bad player, but I am better than that damned fool Jones."!!!—We all, said the Commodore, have our "damned fool Jones" and for this reason no one need despair however late in life he began, or however badly he played. Capt. Rumsey had alluded to "the system." As regards this, all he, the Commodore, could say was that this "system" (which is now proverbial in Hongkong golfing circles) had carried him through many a tough fight, and he felt proud to say that on his last public appearance on the links he defeated a great friend of his by its aid. This friend, however, was not a "Jones." The Commodore resumed his seat amid loud applause, after wishing the Hongkong Golf Club and golfers all success.

Mr. McKie then in a humorous speech proposed Mr. Waymouth's health, and after a response and a song or two a most pleasant evening came to an end.

### CORRESPONDENCE

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

### THE JAPANESE IN FORMOSA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Sir.—The writing of some of your correspondents in Formosa concerning the doings of the Japanese in the island has astonished me not a little, but none so much as that of your Tainanfoo correspondent. The reason has been that the deeds stated to have been done by the Japanese are so different from what I should have expected of that people, after a long experience of their nature gained from living amongst them. Still I had no means of ascertaining the truth or the want of truth of your correspondent's statements till lately. Since, however, I have been in Formosa, have travelled several hundred miles through the country, a great part of the distance through the districts in which the affirmed "atrocities" took place, and have taken every opportunity of discovering what has been the actual truth, from what I could see and from what I could learn from both Japanese and Chinese, I have no hesitation in affirming that your correspondent's statements as to the action of the Japanese are, with a few exceptions, either exaggerations or pure fabrications. There have been no "atrocities" except inasmuch as such every form of war is atrocious. Active rebels have been shot down or caught and executed without much mercy. I believe this is the custom with the people of all countries in such lamentable cases. Through the districts in which the rebels held sway for a time towns and villages have been burned, leaving the survivors homeless. I have heard of such things in cases of war in European countries and in America. That "women and children were put to the sword" is simply untrue, though it seems to be the case, as is inevitable in war of any kind, more especially in the suppression of a rebellion, that some who were innocent suffered with the guilty and that the property of many who were not in any sense rebels was destroyed. The Japanese Government is now offering to compensate all who have lost in this manner.

Provocation for the rebellion there was some undoubtedly, but it amounted to nothing more than the overbearing manner of soldiers and coolies and the petty tyranny of petty officials, concerning whom I am so far in accord with your correspondent that I wish the higher officials were made responsible.

Besides the writing of the correspondent above referred to and that of various others, I have read the letters of Mr. Davidson, who is mentioned in your issue of August 31st, and I must say that comparing the writings of all, and taking into consideration what I have seen and been able to ascertain at first hand, Mr. Davidson's writing comes far nearer the truth than that of other correspondents. It may be the case that Mr. Davidson is over prone to believe the statements made to him by Japanese officials, but it seems to me that he has shown a

fine discrimination in sifting what is false from what is true.

But what is to be said of the other side? "There are European eye witnesses" writes your Tainanfoo correspondent. (The italics are mine. The things witnessed, are supposed to be the "atrocities" that your correspondent describes). One cannot help asking concerning these "Europeans":—where are they and who are they? There were two or three Europeans in the district of the rebellion many weeks ago, who may have seen a little of the fighting, but they long since left it. The plain fact is that the "atrocities" your correspondent reports come to him only from Chinese sources. Any people in the position in which the Chinese in Formosa now find themselves would be unlikely to tell the pure unvarnished truth, and the Chinese have never, so far as I know, had a particularly high reputation for the article in question. Rather, they have had the reverse.

The real fact seems to be that the foreign community of which your correspondent is one chafes—not unnaturally—at finding its privileges curtailed on account of the transference of Formosa from Chinese to Japanese rule, enjoys hearing news to the discredit of the latter people, and that there are easy means for getting such news manufactured to meet the demand, a Chinese being, as a rule, only too ready to furnish the kind of tales that he finds his listeners relish. Such expressions as "the Japanese . . . like all Oriental savages, thirsted for revenge" are enough, without comment, to show the spirit in which your correspondent writes, and to throw discredit on anything that he writes, in the mind of any fair-minded reader, of whatever nationality.

Your correspondent states that the Japanese have not contradicted reports of the "atrocities." If he means that they have not actually contradicted what he was written I cannot say him nay, because I do not know that any Japanese correspondent has noticed his effusions. On the other hand the Japanese newspapers print daily, or nearly so, matter from their own correspondents in Formosa which give a very different description of affairs from that of your Tainanfoo correspondent. I travelled for about a hundred miles with one of these correspondents and found him a particularly bright and intelligent man who had had a very thorough education in England.

I am driven to suppose that your correspondent expects official contradiction of what appears in your columns from him concerning affairs in Formosa! but you, I am sure, are aware that it is not the custom of Japanese officials to deny irresponsible reports that appear in foreign papers. Imagine, indeed, in any country, an official denial being given to such stuff as comes from your Tainanfoo correspondent!

This whole affair of the rebellion and its suppression is sad enough at the best, and it really seems to me a pity that you should lend your columns to make it appear more than it is by publishing reports so horribly exaggerated and distorted as those of your Tainanfoo correspondent.—I remain, sir, yours, &c.

W. K. BURTON.

Tai-hoku  
Tai-wan, 5th September, 1896.

### IMPROVEMENT OF TEA MAKING AT FUOCHOW.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE INDIAN METHOD.

The following letter appears in the Foochow Echo of the 12th September:

Dear Sir,—It has been a subject of remark during the past few weeks that you have maintained a mysterious silence regarding the crisis, if I may so call it, that has come about in the Foochow tea trade. The purport of this letter is quite as much to induce you to break that silence and if possible to draw forth some opinion from you as to our prospects, as to furnish you readers with the news, which cannot fail to be of interest to all.

Mr. Fraser, of the firm of Fraser, Ramsay & Co., after visiting the tea gardens of India and Ceylon and making himself acquainted with the methods adopted in those countries of picking and curing tea, has managed to introduce

them into one of the tea districts here and with such marked success that a prosperous future for the Foochow tea trade seems assured. So far, what has been done is merely an experiment but the most satisfactory results have been obtained, that is to say, teas of the prettiest make and appearance have been produced drawing a strong dark liquor, with an infused leaf of the approved bright golden colour. What more is required? We are at once placed in a position to compete with Indian and Ceylon growers in the great consuming markets of Great Britain and Australia.

No difficulty was found in starting a company locally for the purchase of machinery and for otherwise pushing the adoption of the new method of making tea among the Chinese. The name of the Company is the "Foochow Tea Improvement Company."

Over and above this, I hear that there is quite a little undercurrent of excitement going on in the foreign hongs. Of course with such a conservative people as the Chinese, it is unlikely that more than a small proportion of the Congou crop will be made in the new fashion for a year or two, but in the meantime it is understood that some of the foreign hongs are already vying with one another to get this small proportion into their own clutches. All sorts of inducements are being offered, which the Canton and Chin-chew hong-men will not relish. Liberal advances are to be made to intending operators in this new-fashioned tea, and extensive godown-room is to be placed at their disposal. The novel (to Foochow) method of selling the tea by auction has been proposed—the advancing Foreign Hong to be the auctioneers, who further proffer their services to ship any teas, for which satisfactory prices are not bid, to the consuming markets of the world on owners' account. There is nothing like taking time by the forelock.

Pray, Mr. Editor, let us have your views, or those of any of your contributors who may care to favour us with theirs.—I am, dear sir, yours truly,

T.

Upon this the *Echo* makes the following comments:

We find ourselves forestalled by our correspondent "T" in being the first to make public an important piece of news, the introduction into this province of the Indian method of making tea. We were asked by some of our subscribers not to publish anything we might hear about it for a time, and it is only within the last few days that we have been released from our undertaking to abide by the request. Although the thought may have been quite original on Mr. Fraser's part, it was not altogether a new one. The idea of its feasibility had occurred to more than one of our resident merchants, but was abandoned by reason of the difficulties attending the introduction appearing to them insurmountable. It may be guessed that the foremost difficulty was the certain strong opposition of the Chinese, high and low. It was reserved for Mr. Fraser to do what others had feared to attempt, and if all goes well, as the result of his first experiment seems to predict, his name will be handed down to posterity as the reviver of our moribund tea trade. Mr. Fraser followed up the conception of the idea by going to the gardens and factories of India and Ceylon and learning for himself all that he could about tea cultivation and tea curing in those countries. On his return to China he brought with him a tea rolling machine, which was no doubt to be followed by other machinery necessary to complete the curing on Indian principles. The rolling machine was landed, but now came the question of the difficulties which dreamers of the scheme had looked upon as insurmountable. Mr. Fraser reckoned up and circumvented them. He had his establishment at Peeling and managed to get all his machinery up to that district piecemeal, without ruffling either the tender susceptibilities of the sleepy officials or the local population. Instead of hiring a score or two of Foochow coolies to rush the machinery up *en bloc*, which would have created suspicion, ill-feeling, and possibly trouble, he had it carried up at intervals bit by bit, by local coolies sent down from Peeling for the purpose, and they arrived with their burdens without al-

tracting any special attention. Thus this formidable difficulty, as it was considered, was overcome by a little tact and good management. It was promptly set up and brought into play with the satisfactory results mentioned by "T," namely, in pretty dry leaf, nice strong and dark liquoring waters (so much liked by the English masses) and infusions of the approved bright bronze-coloured infusions being produced. But before describing the result we ought first to have mentioned that the Chinese mode of picking, of withering, and fermenting had all to be altered. This was quickly taught, and it is said by the Chinese that these preliminary processes, apart from the use of the rolling machinery, are sufficient to produce the made tea with all the characteristics of that shipped from India and Ceylon. Experts who have seen these teas declare them to be wonderfully good, but Mr. Fraser and his friends, believing that machine-made teas will be far superior, have formed themselves into a company, and several influential merchants have joined them, for the purpose of importing all the machinery necessary. We wish the company all possible success.

The Foochow tea trade continues to decline so rapidly, excepting for its specialities, that all interested in the port at all must welcome warmly any move that is likely to revive it, and should give all the encouragement they can to Mr. Fraser and his friends, in the expense and trouble they are going to, to keep the trade alive.

Having furnished our readers with a brief sketch of what is going on in this new departure in the history of the China tea trade, we willingly comply with our correspondent "T's" wish that we should give our views on the subject. We have to say that we are only deterred from boldly asserting that Foochow has a future before it by the thought of the cruelly heavy export duty, like, and other taxes we have to submit to, which together amount to fully 40 per cent. on the average cost of the season's crop. Given that we are successful in making teas that will be as readily saleable as those of India and Ceylon in the great consuming markets, how can we look for a prosperous trade with such a handicap as this 40 per cent. to add on to our first cost?

#### THE INCREASED DUTIES IN MANILA.

The new duties to be collected in the Philippines were published in the Madrid *Gazette* of 23rd August and telegraphed to Manila the same day. A landing tax of two per cent. is to be paid on all cargo discharged and a consumption tax is imposed on the following articles in addition to the duties already in force:—Brandy in wood, 20 cents per litre; in bottle, 30 cents per litre. Beer, 10 cents per litre. Tinned provisions, 2 cents per kilogramme. Flour, 50 cents per 100 kilogrammes. Salt (at present free), \$1 per 100 kilogrammes. Kerosene, \$1 per hundred kilogrammes.

The export duties have been increased as follows, the unit of quantity being in each case 100 kilogrammes:—

|  | New duty. | Old duty. |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Hemp   | \$0.75    | \$0.50    |
| Sugar  | 0.10      | 0.05      |
| Coprah   | 0.10      | free      |
| Manufactured Tobacco                             | 3.10      | free      |
| Raw Tobacco from Cagayan, Isabela, and Igorrotes | 3.00      | 1.50      |
| Raw Tobacco from Visayas                         | 2.00      | 0.75      |
| Raw Tobacco from other parts                     | 1.50      | 0.50      |

A tax of four per cent. which it was intended to levy for difference of exchange has been abandoned.

On the announcement of the new duties the Manila Chamber of Commerce held a meeting and it was decided to send a telegram to the Minister for the Colonies asking for a delay of one month before bringing the new duties into force in order to avoid loss on contracts previously entered into. A telegram on the subject was also sent by the British Consul to the British Minister at Madrid.

On the 30th August the Governor-General received a telegram from the Minister for the Colonies stating that the duties must come into force immediately and instructed him to inform

the Chamber of Commerce and the Consuls that he (the Minister) regretted that financial necessity compelled him to adhere to the date originally fixed.

#### WRECK OF THE "HOVDING."

Nagasaki, 17th September.

Among the passengers by the steamer *Tokyo-maru*, which arrived here yesterday from Vladivostock, were the officers and crew of the Norwegian steamer *Hovding*, which went ashore on the Siberian coast on 14th July last. The vessel, which is of iron, of 1,313 tons register, was going from Nicolaevsk to Vladivostock and ran aground during a dense fog. When it lifted it was discovered that she was firmly fixed on the beach. No difficulty was experienced in getting ashore and the men got all their personal belongings out of the vessel before proceeding to Vladivostock. A Russian man-of-war went to see if she could be got off, but this was found to be impossible. The captain still remains in Vladivostock, pending negotiations for the sale of the wreck.—*Nagasaki Express*.

#### RUSSIAN EXPLORATION IN MANCHURIA.

We learn from the *Kobe Chronicle* that the *Osaka Mainichi* publishes the following extract from a letter of a Japanese firm at Yingkou (port of Newchwang), received by a merchant of Osaka:—A Russian land surveying party, consisting of a Staff Captain, an Artillery Lieutenant, two soldiers, and a number of Koreans in Russian military uniform, arrived at Yingkou on the morning of the 6th August. They came from Seoul, all on horseback. They brought two horses for baggage and a number of Chinese coolies. They all seem to be greatly fatigued by their long journey, and their garments were badly travel-stained. Each wore a big sword. They took lodgings with an English firm, called in Chinese Yuen Lai & Co. (? Bush Bros.) On the 17th, the Russian officers had an interview with the Tao-tai in his yamen. They speak Chinese fluently. In the afternoon the party surveyed the forts and the surroundings of the port. On the 18th the party inspected the streets in the town and called at the store of Mr. Tominaga, a Japanese merchant. On the morning of the 19th the party inspected the mouth of the Liao river and in the afternoon the Lieutenant with the soldiers and three Koreans left the rest of the party and proceeded to Shugan, the others going to Port Arthur. They are reported to intend coming back to Yingkou in October, then proceeding to Fusen by sea, and thence to Vladivostock by way of Yuensan overland. As a number of Chinese soldiers have arrived at Yingkou in the past few days, the inhabitants are somewhat alarmed.

#### THE CHINESE NATIONAL BANK.

Shanghai, 11th September.

Sheng Taotai left this morning for Tientsin by the C. M. steamer *Hsinchi*, on his way to Peking. His brain has been busy at work during his absence from the North, and he has gone back full of schemes. His first and foremost scheme is to make final arrangements for starting the Chinese National Bank. When this Bank was first mooted Sir Robert Hart was appealed to, and after much consideration it was thought advisable to place the whole affair under Sir Robert's management, so that the whole of the Customs revenue would be paid into the new Bank. At present the Customs Bank receives all the revenue and finances, and is under the control of the Customs Taotai, who farms it out to a rich Chinese. Sheng Taotai wishes now to do away with the Customs Bank, and take the entire management of the National Bank himself, without any assistance from Sir Robert Hart. He proposes that all duties should be paid into the Chinese National Bank, and that it takes over all surplus funds. He also proposes that all inland revenue as well as the land tax from the different provinces be paid into the new Bank, instead of each province sending their allotted portion to Peking; by the means, he has pointed out, the Government will save quite thirty per cent. on the money now

forwarded to Peking. Sheng Taotai feels certain he will be able to carry the whole scheme through when he arrives at the capital. He will then, he thinks, be able to carry the railway scheme through without the aid of foreign loans or foreign help. Sheng is a long-headed fellow, and he may, during Li Hung-chang's absence, be able to get his own way. However, we shall have more to say on this subject shortly.—*Mercury*.

#### THE CHEFOO FORESHORE AFFAIR.

We understand that the laying of foundations for the erection of a large godown on Messrs. Fergusson's much débated foreshore at Chefoo has been stopped, presumably for a time, as the disturbance of the soil is held to be responsible for an outbreak of fever at present afflicting foreign residents at Chefoo.

Messrs. Fergusson, it is said, with a view to maintaining their right to the commodious jetty which has proved such a great convenience to all having business at the port and the use of which has at all times been ungrudgingly given, have built a wall across the structure and access can now only be obtained through a gate of which Messrs. Fergusson & Co. hold the key. Should this be correct it may not follow that the owners of the jetty will once and for all withdraw an inestimable boon to the foreign community, but it points to the imperative need for better provision being made by the Imperial Maritime Customs for a landing place which may be used with some feelings of safety. This much cannot be said for the present Customs jetty, which is not only invariably crowded with boats, but is almost always in a dirty state and totally unfitted for passenger traffic.—*China Gazette*.

#### THE BENNERTZ DIFFICULTY.

Shanghai, 12th September.

After thirteen days' delay, during which the expenses of the *Sin Fokien* have been running on, and a series of melodramatic threats on the part of the Commissioner of Customs at Chinkiang as to his intention to disable the steamer's engines, remove her steering-gear, and sink her with the guns from the forts, the Commissioner has been brought to inform the charterers, Messrs. Bennertz & Co., that the steamer is confiscated for a breach of the River Regulations. What the breach is, he still declines to state. The only possible pretext is that the *Sin Fokien* on her way from Chefoo to Hankow with a cargo of Chinese troops, who were in a state of mutiny, as usual, did not stop at Chinkiang on her way up, when the stoppage would probably have led to an attack on the European officers by the troops, who are furious when their voyage is delayed. The *Sin Fokien*, however, duly stopped and reported on her way down, when she might easily have passed through the port without stopping. We understand that a similar slowness to that of the Chinkiang Commissioner has been shown by the Taotai here, except when he made through his legal advisers his preposterous claim of Tls. 100,000 for the loss of the steamer, but H.M.'s Consul Mr. Jamieson is taking up the question vigorously, and the whole matter will have to be explained, and reparation made by the Chinese for their arbitrary action, unless the explanation is satisfactory.

Shanghai, 15th September.

There is one serious matter in the tragicomedy of Bennertz & Co. and the Kiangnan Defence and Pay Department which deserves consideration, and that is the use which Chinese authorities are able to make of the Imperial Maritime Customs, which it has become usual to think of as a more or less cosmopolitan and impartial institution. The Bennertz difficulty is really a dispute about the chartering of some steamers, which would be of no more importance to the general public than such disputes ordinarily are but for the action of the Customs. Bennertz is recognised as a British subject, and if he broke the terms of the charter-party which gave him control of the steamers, it was open to the Chinese owners to go to the British Consulate, where they could rely on getting justice done. But instead of that straightforward course, the Taotai, as

Superintendent of Customs, tells the Commissioner to stop the clearance of the steamers, and the latter has to obey. By this arbitrary act, which no private steamer owner in a similar position could get the Commissioner to do, Mr. Bennertz's business is brought to a standstill, and his credit with the Chinese seriously injured; and even if the Taotai has to pay damages hereafter for this unfair blow, it will be very difficult to make him pay a sum that will really reinstate Mr. Bennertz in his previous position. In Chinkiang the power of the Customs has been abused in the same way. The *Sin Fokien* is detained, and when Mr. Bennertz asks the reason, the Commissioner calmly, after much pressure, says that he cannot admit the right of Mr. Bennertz to ask questions. The steamer was seized on the 29th of August, and it was not until the 10th of September that the captain was informed that "the *Sin Fokien*, having passed this port and proceeded up river in contravention of rule 3 of the Yangtze Regulations is hereby declared to be forfeited to the Chinese Government." Of course this is only a pretext made use of to enable the Chinese authorities to get the vessel back into their hands; but it is not right that the power of the Customs should be thus abused in a private quarrel. An extract from a letter from the master of the *Sin Fokien* will show what ground there is for regarding the breach of Customs Regulations as a pretext. He writes on the 8th of September:—"I have seen the Commissioner again, but can get nothing out of him in writing. He candidly tells me that my vessel is detained by order of the Taotai, and why he does not know (an irregular transport), and that the question of your not having complied with customary regulations as to advising Customs and authorities, that I was expected to pass up river with troops, may or may not crop up later on." Now we have it over Mr. Lay's signature that the *Sin Fokien* was not confiscated until the 10th of September, and yet on the 3rd of September, as we have already stated, the Taotai's legal advisers wrote the following letter to Messrs. H. Bennertz & Co.:—

"Shanghai, 3rd Shanghai, 1896.  
"Messrs. H. Bennertz & Co.

"Dear Sirs,

"s.s. *Sin Fokien*.

"We hear from the Shanghai Taotai that this ship which you chartered from the Kiangnan Defence and Pay Department on the 16th April last has been seized and confiscated by the Customs authorities at Chinkiang for a breach of their regulations.

"Under these circumstances the Taotai instructs us to apply to you for payment of the Tls. 100,000 agreed upon in the charter party as the value of the ship, and in the event of not receiving the sum to commence proceedings against you."

The Kiangnan Defence and Pay Department evidently thought it would be "good business" to make use of the Customs at Chinkiang to get back the ship, and then claim Tls. 100,000 from Bennertz & Co. for her loss. This sum would wipe out all Bennertz & Co.'s claims, and leave the Department with the ships and with their "face" preserved.

The *Sin Fokien* did go through Chinkiang on her way up to Hankow without a river pass, but the circumstances are such that justice would have been fully satisfied with a nominal fine. She had 700 disbanded troops on board, bound from Chefoo to Hankow, and every shipmaster who has carried Chinese troops knows what they are. If not absolutely prostrate with sea-sickness, they are in a state of mutiny, because as a rule no provision whatever is made by their commanders for their comfort on board. As long ago as 1864 the steamer *Sir Harry Parkes*, carrying troops from Ningpo to Amoy, was set on fire by them, and it was with the greatest difficulty that the officers of the ship prevented their storming the bridge and taking control of the vessel; and such incidents are of constant occurrence. The behaviour of the troops on the *Kowshing* is a case in point. The *Sin Fokien* arrived off Chinkiang on her way up river at 1.10 a.m. on the 24th of August, and she could not safely have stopped there until the Custom-house opened at 10 to get a river pass. Already on her way down from Chefoo, as we learn from her log, the soldiers had been "very disorderly, trying to take galleys and saloon, and with diffi-

culty got out of them. Swarming over awnings, boats, etc., and using threats of violence when interfered with, even trying to come on the bridge with a stick to the captain." We make one more extract from the captain's log. It is dated at Hankow, the 27th of August:—"Mr. Smith, sub-Commissioner at Hankow, informed Commissioner in my presence that it is not the first time that a troopship has arrived without a river pass or notice from Viceroy, and that, provided no cargo was taken in, nothing was done in the way of detention or fining the ship." It is obvious that under these circumstances, nothing more than a nominal fine could have been in justice inflicted on the *Sin Fokien*, but that a pretext was wanted to get the ship back into Chinese possession while she was still under charter to Bennertz & Co. This is evidently an abuse of the power vested in the Customs; and the whole affair must tend to make foreigners very cautious in their dealings with the Chinese officials, who will use the most arbitrary methods to protect themselves, while it is a long and wearisome business for the foreigner to get reparation for actual damage suffered, and he has perhaps to endure consequential damages for which he cannot compensation at all.—*N. C. Daily News*.

#### REFORMS IN KOREA.

##### MR. MCLEAVY BROWN AT WORK.

The Korean correspondent of the *Nagasaki Express* writes:—

Reforms are progressing, not with large strides it is true, but to those acquainted with Korean matters this "slow and sure" progress in the best possible augury of their permanence. The Customs Department is now on a sound basis. Formerly the Governors of the open ports had control of the revenues. Now they are in the hands of the chief Customs officers, so that the official who formerly paid the salary of the Commissioner of Customs and his staff now receives his own pay from them instead. Mr. McLeavy Brown, the Commissioner of Customs, has taken charge of the Financial Department, and no moneys can be drawn without his sanction. He has also control over the Royal Mint, and has effected a clearing up in that department. Besides this he has commenced to look into the accounts and working of the Korean steamers. I am afraid that he will find them "white elephants" indeed, as many Europeans, Japanese, and a few Koreans, will find to their cost. In accordance with Mr. Brown's wish a sort of military paymaster has been appointed, and it is hoped that the army will now get their pay more regularly and directly. Previously the money passed through the hands of the military officers, and a good deal of it found its way into their pockets. The latest innovation is the appointment of an adviser to the Police Department.

Mr. A. B. Stripling, a gentleman formerly well known in Shanghai, has been commissioned to visit the prisons, see the prisoners are properly treated and not tortured, and that justice is done them by the gaolers and their underlings. This is a step that has long been needed. Mr. Stripling, though somewhat advanced in years, is very active, a strict disciplinarian, though of a kind disposition, and possesses a knowledge of the country, the result of some nine years' residence here. I could instance many other reforms now being carried out, but I think I have said sufficient to convince readers of the real work of progress now moving steadily onward, in spite of Japan and of party intrigues.

#### THE CHARGE AGAINST ARMY OFFICERS IN FORMOSA.

Tokyo, 6th September.

The charge against Lieut.-Col. Masuda, who is to be court-martialled in Formosa, is not one of cowardice, as reported. It appears that instructions were issued by the Governor-General directing the army in Formosa to distinguish between rebels and peaceful people. On the occasion of the rising at Unrin, the Lieut.-Colonel attacked the populace without any discrimination, and this is the charge upon which the Court is to try him.

#### A JAPANESE STEAMER FOUNDRED.

##### OVER SIXTY LIVES LOST.

Kobe, 9th September.

The steamer *Toku-maru*, owned by the Kyoritsu Steamship Company, and plying between Osaka and Kishu via Kobe, foundered off Temposan, Osaka, about 3 p.m. yesterday, over 60 passengers being drowned. She was on her way from Kishu to Osaka and had on board about 90 passengers. On account of the wind, the captain deemed it advisable to anchor off Temposan, and while this was being attempted, the steamer was carried away by a rapid current and driven aground. She then presumably heeled over. The O.S.K. steamer *Minatogawa-maru*, from Kishu, was unable to call at Osaka on account of the gale and had to come to Hyogo.

According to the *Kwansai Shogyo Nippo*, only seven passengers were saved by the water police.—*Kobe Chronicle*.

#### AN INTERNATIONAL DIFFICULTY AT BANGKOK.

In the Siamese Criminal Court at Bangkok on the 7th September a man named Kadir was charged with murder. The affair out of which the charge arose did not take place at Bangkok, but at a place near the frontier. A good deal of discussion had previously taken place as to the nationality of the prisoner and as to whether he was subject to Siamese jurisdiction, it being claimed that he was a Cambodian and therefore under French protection. It is stated that at the commencement of the trial he admitted he was under Siamese jurisdiction, but the trial had not proceeded long before M. De France, the French Minister, appeared, accompanied by M. Hardouin, and M. Defrance, speaking in French, which was afterwards interpreted to the Court by M. Hardouin, said he had come to protest against the trial proceeding as prisoner was under French protection, and the Court had no jurisdiction. He had written several letters to the Siamese Foreign Minister, and he would hold the Government responsible for anything which might arise out of the proceedings.

Turning to prisoner, M. Defrance then instructed him not to answer any questions, and, expressing their regret for having to disturb the Court, both gentlemen retired.

The Court then adjourned for half-an-hour to consult as to what course to adopt, and on resuming the trial was continued, but on the following day it was adjourned *sine die* owing to the illness of the Attorney-General.

As some indication of the feeling in Tonkin the following by the Hanoi correspondent of the *Siam Free Press* is interesting:—

Hanoi, 15th August.

On dit here that the Governor-General has been consulted by the Government with regard to the number of men he could spare in view of the growing tension of the Siamese question. It is said that an army corps of 10,000 men, 3,000 European and 7,000 native troops, could be ready in eight days and thrown on any frontier of Indo-China in about the same time if necessary. This piece of information ought to afford the Siamese Ministers and their Councillor Rolin-Jacquemyns food for reflection. Eight days to transport an army corps of 10,000 men to Battambong . . . or elsewhere!

"The Moralist" of the *Straits Times* says:—The capital wanted for docking and engineering at Shanghai has been very much over-subscribed. No wonder! When Shanghai people see the gigantic profits and the assured stability of the dock enterprises at Singapore and at Hongkong, it is only natural that they also should make haste to share the shower of gold that falls upon the capitalist who invests in "docks." Yet there was a time when Tan-jong Pagar Docks might have been had at about sixty per cent. discount in place of two hundred per cent. premium. \$40,000 invested then would now have a market value of \$300,000; and huge dividends would also have been netted.

**PRISON TREATMENT AT HONG-KONG AND SINGAPORE CONTRASTED.**

A correspondent writes to the *Straits Times* as follows:—

As compared with those incarcerated in the gaol at Hongkong, the prisoners in the Singapore establishment receive far better treatment and have happier times than those in the sister colony, and this, no doubt, is the reason why the number in Hongkong hardly ever exceeds five or six hundred at the most, whilst in Singapore the general average, as a rule, is between eight and nine hundred prisoners. The secret, if it can be called a secret, lies in the fact that the prisoners here are tolerably well fed, whilst those at Hongkong—that is, those undergoing short sentences, six months and under—fare somewhat badly, having just sufficient served out to them to keep body and soul together, and nothing more. Two meals per diem is the bill of fare, with a pint of congee at mid-day; the meals consist of rice, which, by its colour and quality, may be more properly termed paddy, with a couple of ounces of fish or vegetables five days a week. On Saturdays and Sundays, which are termed punishment diet days, when no labour is performed, the short sentence prisoners, European and Chinese alike, are regaled on plain boiled rice and cold water. Yet notwithstanding this not over elaborate menu, the prisoners seem to thrive upon it, and the death-rate in the Hongkong gaol is much lower as compared with that in Singapore. It must not be understood for a moment that the prisoners here are over-fed, but that they fare better both as regards quality and quantity is well known. There are no punishment diet days, the same as in Hongkong, unless it is to those undergoing solitary confinement for breach of prison rules. The rattan is sparingly used, whilst in the sister colony scarcely a day passes without some five, six, or more prisoners tasting of its quality for very simple offences. The aim of the authorities there, it would seem, is to make the place as hot for the prisoners as it can possibly be made, without being unnecessarily harsh, in order to deter the inmates from looking upon the establishment as a boarding-house or hotel. Here, in Singapore, though many of the prisoners are more dead than alive (from the effects of opium-smoking and other causes) when entering the prison gates, yet they are so well treated that six out of seven on release merely take a bit of a stroll around the town, visit a few old friends, and commit another offence, in order to be sent back again to the Pearl's Hill Sanatorium. It is as well, perhaps, to temper justice with mercy, but, like everything else, it may be overdone; and it is thought, in order to thin the over-increasing numbers of criminals, who are evidently fond of prison life, that some more severe code of punishment is needed, especially with those prisoners having a record of many convictions and who have spent years of their lives in gaol:

**FREIGHT AND WAGES IN JAPAN.**

The continued fall in the rates of freight is the cause of much anxiety to small owners engaged in the coasting trade. At present the freight on fish guano between Tokyo and Otaru is only 35 yen per 100 koku; on rice between Tokyo and Hyogo 15 yen for the same quantity; while the freight on coal between Tokyo and Moji is 85 sen per ton. The keen competition prevailing among shipowners also leads to discounts on these rates. It is evident that shipowners must be experiencing considerable difficulty in making both ends meet. The sudden increase in the merchant marine of Japan has caused so much competition among shipowners that a Japanese captain who drew at most 40 yen per month before the war will not accept less than 100 to 150 yen now. For similar reasons an increase has been made in wages of sailors and stokers, rates rising from 5 or 6 to 15 yen.—*Japan Mail.*

It was the Russian cruiser *Korets*, not the flag-ship *Pamiat Azova*, that recently went ashore between Gensan and Vladivostock.

**THE WELSBACH BURNER AT SINGAPORE.**

The Singapore Municipality has adopted a new lighting contract with the Gas Company for two years. It had been left to the President and Engineer of the Municipality to arrange terms with the Manager of the Gas Company, and at a meeting of the Commissioners held on the 9th September the terms so arranged were submitted and approved.

In the course of his statement the President said—Then there was the delicate matter of the incandescent light. Mr. Ford showed them the correspondence between the Company and the patentees of the light at home, which left no doubt that it was impossible for the Gas Company, under the present circumstances, to do justice to the incandescent light here. The cost of the lamp and of its upkeep were so great that all the saving in the consumption of gas was absorbed. They had, therefore, waived the clause relating to these burners; but, if the Commissioners chose to adopt the burners themselves, purchase them, and maintain them, the company would supply the gas.

Mr. Sheldford, speaking on the same subject, said—There seemed to have been a good deal of misapprehension as to the Welsbach light. He stated on a previous occasion that the light had proved unsatisfactory—in its results, of course—and he was prepared to re-affirm that statement. It was quite true that in the Administration Report for last year the Acting Engineer showed a very large saving of gas by the burners; but against that large saving of gas there was a very great increase of cost in the light. The cost of the gas lamp under the present contract was \$37.25. By using the Welsbach lamp they saved \$17.07 bringing the cost down to \$20.18. But then the Welsbach lamp cost \$26.40, bringing the total to \$46.18, as against \$37.25, being an increase of 39.34 per lamp. The consumption of gas had been somewhat greater than it might otherwise have been, owing to the lamp having been interfered with by the weather and other causes. Reference had been made to Bombay. The Engineer, in a report previously presented, showed distinctly that instead of an increase in Bombay there had been an actual saving of about 13 rupees a lamp, equal to \$6.84, as against an extra cost in Singapore of 39.34. The upkeep in Bombay had been \$7.10, whereas on the most modified terms in Singapore it would be \$14.28. In Bombay, at the end of four years they would have paid for the cost of the lamp, and thereafter 13 rupees monthly per lamp would be saved. If they, however, were to adopt the principle adopted in Bombay, they would not be able to recover the cost under about 20 years. Under the circumstances, he ventured to repeat that the Welsbach light, as tried in Singapore, had not been satisfactory.

It is explained that the reason the Welsbach burner was not a success at Singapore is that owing to the Municipality being unwilling to incur any initial expense the delicate Welsbach appliances had to be fitted to the ordinary street lamps, which were eminently unsuited for this purpose, being neither rain, nor dust, nor insect-proof, and shaking every time a carriage passes.

**HONGKONG.**

We at length know for a certainty that the rebellion in the Philippines is of the most serious character, the latest information showing that the country is in a dire state of insurrection. On Saturday the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce held a meeting to protest against the recent increase in telegraph charges. Vigorous speeches were delivered on the subject and important resolutions passed. The Chamber then re-elected Hon. T. H. Whitehead as their representative on the Legislative Council. There was a double murder in the colony on Saturday night and two men, one of whom has confessed, were arrested. Heavy rains have fallen lately and the reservoirs are now overflowing.

The promotion is gazetted of Lieut. W. C. M. Woodcock, Wing Commander, Hongkong Regiment, to be captain.

The report of the Director of the Observatory for 1895 is published in Saturday's *Gazette*.

There were 1,765 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 144 were Europeans.

Lieut. A. J. R. Greene, R.A., arrived on the 18th September from Singapore by the P. & O. steamer *Pekin* to join the Hongkong Garrison.

An inmate of a Square Street brothel was drugged by a man on Saturday night and then robbed of jewellery of the value of \$30. The police are anxious to find the man.

Commodore Boyes struck his broad pennant at sunset on the 17th September and that of Commodore Hollond was hoisted at 8 a.m. on the 18th. Commodore Boyes sailed on Tuesday in the *Peru*.

The following telegram from the Mining Manager at Raub details the crushing results for the last two months:—Crushing finished, 2,030 tons stone realized 1,176 ozs. smelted gold; prospects remain unchanged.

On the arrival of the P. & O. steamer *Shanghai* on the 17th September from Shanghai she went into quarantine, but was released during the day. A man had died on board from cholera on the passage down. The body was buried at sea.

Taitam reservoir is now full to overflowing, a condition it has not been in since its extension. Pokfulam reservoir is of course also running over, so that a continuous water supply for the ensuing dry season is practically assured. Since Monday last 5.54 inches of rain fell in the colony.

A rather brutal assault was dealt with by the Magistrate on the 16th September. Two men attacked a washerman who keeps a shop in Queen's Road, simply because a box which they wanted was in Jervois Street and "it was too far to fetch it." The washerman was badly beaten and one of his eyes was seriously damaged. One man was sent to gaol for four months and the other for two months with hard labour.

A Chinese passenger on board the *Fatshan* had his pockets picked on the 18th September during the voyage to Hongkong. He was relieved of his purse and the money it contained. His suspicions were directed to one man and when he arrived at Hongkong he informed the police and gave them a description of the man he suspected. A detective went on board, found the man, and searched him. The identical purse was found in his possession, and he was accordingly arrested and charged with the theft. At the Magistracy yesterday he was sent to gaol for six weeks.

Gambling appears to be rife at West Point. Another raid was made on a licensed lodging house in that locality by a party of police under Inspector Hennessy and Sergeant Moffat on Wednesday evening. They found eighteen men, including the two masters of the house, playing the game of pakau. They were all arrested and brought before the Magistrate on the 17th September. The two masters were fined \$50 each with the alternative of two months imprisonment, and each of the other defendants was ordered to pay \$3 or receive fourteen days.

At Nagasaki on the 7th September the United States Marshal arrested a passenger in the European steerage of the steamer *China*, who, it appears, is the companion of the man recently arrested charged with desertion and the theft of \$1,000 from the U.S.S. *Boston*. The man, whose name is Hennessy, was travelling under the alias of Wm. Hunter, had come from Hongkong, and was booked for San Francisco. He came ashore on Sunday night (6th), got drunk, and said his name was Hennessy, which admission led to his arrest.—*Nagasaki Express*.

At a Marine Court held at the Harbour Master's Office on Monday, Commander R. Murray, Rumsey presiding, F. Morgan, steward's store-keeper on board the *Empress of Japan*, was charged with absenting himself from his ship whilst lying in this harbour on the 17th inst. Charles Seal, the chief officer, who prosecuted on behalf of the captain, stated that it was reported to him that defendant was absent from the ship on the 17th inst. without permission. On the 19th he was brought on board in charge of a constable. Commander Rumsey sentenced the defendant to three days' hard labour.

Capt. H. S. Langhorne, R.A., has joined the reorganised Army Ordnance Department as Ordnance Officer, fourth class.

The death rate last month was, for the British and Foreign community, civil population, 24.4 per thousand and for the Chinese community 18.3 per thousand.

A boy living at West Point fell from the roof of his mother's house and was seriously injured. His mother declined to allow him to be treated at the Government Civil Hospital and on Monday morning he died.

We are informed by the General Managers of The Olivers Freehold Mines, Limited, that a telegram has been received from Australia which indicates the probable failure of the negotiations for the sale of the joint properties.

On Friday afternoon the woman who kidnapped the wife of a Canton mandarin into this colony was handed over to the lieutenant of the Chinese gunboat *Kwang Li*. It has been suspected here that the Chinese officials have been waiting for this woman to be delivered over to them before fixing the date for decapitation of Lai Mit, so we shall perhaps hear of the final decision in the murderer's case in the course of a few days.

On the 16th September the accountant in the Sam Shing Hing Japanese shop, 136, Queen's Road Central, was summoned for having made, executed, and signed a receipt for the payment of the sum of \$72.50 on unstamped paper, contrary to section 6 of Ordinance 16 of 1886. Mr. A. B. Johnson (Crown Solicitor) prosecuted. The defendant, who pleaded guilty, gave an unstamped receipt to a man who bought some goods of the value of \$72.50 in the shop on the 26th June. Mr. Johnson remarked that the case was a very flagrant one and it was not the first time that an illegal receipt had been given in the defendant's shop. His Worship imposed a fine of \$100, the maximum penalty.

Great efforts have been made to get up a Hongkong team of cricketers to visit Shanghai during the forthcoming season, but unfortunately the efforts have been in vain and it has been found impossible to send up a team this year. This news, which was telegraphed by Mr. E. A. Ram to Shanghai yesterday morning, will be very disappointing to the many cricket enthusiasts in Hongkong, Shanghai, and Japan, but many circumstances, including the near departure of the Rifle Brigade, have cropped up which altogether preclude a representative team being sent. The Shanghai residents were looking forward with very great interest to a visit of a Hongkong team and arrangements were being made for the eleven to play matches against Shanghai and Yokohama.

The members of the Taikoo Sugar Refinery Club entertained a large number of their friends at Quarry Bay on Saturday evening, the occasion being the first of their popular promenade concerts this season. A capital programme had been provided and the arrangements for the comfort and convenience of the guests were admirably carried out. The concert was held in the open air, a stage being erected on the lawn. The Taikoo minstrel troupe gave an amusing little sketch, introducing several topical allusions. The band was composed of members of the Club assisted by friends. The concert was a great success, each item being well received. Owing to the length of the programme, however, the numerous demands for encores could not be responded to.

The latest legal puzzle—are opium divans common lodging houses?—is likely to be brought forward at the next meeting of the Sanitary Board. It will be remembered that some time ago the Magistrate fined an opium divan keeper for keeping a lodging-house without a licence and he then expressed very decided views on the question. Notice of appeal was given and several similar cases were allowed to stand over, but it now turns out that there will be no necessity to appeal, as the Magistrate two or three days ago reversed his decision and dismissed all the summonses. We do not know his reason for quashing the conviction he previously made, but it is believed the Sanitary Board will be in favour of pursuing the crusade and bringing the divans under control as lodging-houses. It will probably rest with the law officers of the Crown as to what action is to be taken in the future.

Several house owners were summoned at the Magistracy on Tuesday for failing to comply with notices calling upon them to abate nuisances on premises. In some cases fines were inflicted and the premises ordered to be put in proper repair and in other cases the summonses were adjourned.

An inquest was held at the Magistracy on Tuesday morning on the body of a Sikh bombardier in the Asiatic Artillery. The man fell from a verandah in Queen's Road East. He was sitting on the coping stone, as was his usual custom, whilst taking his evening meal. Nobody was on the verandah at the time and he accidentally fell over. A lukong who was passing immediately went to his assistance and the unfortunate man was conveyed to the hospital, where it was found that his skull was severely fractured. He died about twenty minutes afterwards. A verdict of accidental death was returned.

On Saturday the steamer *Sunkiang* brought from Manila the first officer and three seamen of the ship *Flora P. Stafford*, which was burnt at sea in June last. It will be remembered that when the ship was doomed to destruction by fire the crew took to three boats, two of which put in near Manila after a perilous voyage of thirty days, and it was thought that the missing boat, which contained the first officer and three men, had been capsized and the occupants drowned. It now transpires that they met a better fate than their comrades. They were well supplied with provisions and instruments and in ten days they reached the Pellew Islands, having fine weather the whole way. During the voyage two men alternately rowed—they were without sails—while the other two rested. From the Pellew Islands they sailed in the schooner *Santa Cruz* to Yap, but here they had to wait nearly two months for a steamer to take them to Manila. At Manila they saw the British Consul and then they were brought to Hongkong by the *Sunkiang*.

In response to the invitation of Mr. Romano, the Consul-General for Portugal in this colony, a large number of Portuguese residents assembled on Sunday morning in the hall of the Club Lusitano to appoint a Committee to formulate a programme of festivities in commemoration of the fourth centenary of the departure of Vasco da Gama to discover the sea passage to India. Mr. Romano was duly elected to the chair and said that in compliance with the wishes of his Government he caused a circular to be issued inviting the community to meet to discuss the best way to commemorate this historical event, and to elect a committee for that purpose. He submitted a list of some thirty-two influential gentlemen whom he proposed to elect as a committee by acclamation. This proposal met with an objection on the part of some of the residents present, who suggested an election by ballot. After a good deal of discussion, which at times was rather warm, the meeting, on the proposal of the Chairman, was postponed till next Sunday, owing to those present being unable to come to a satisfactory agreement. A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the proceedings.

A boy was charged at the Magistracy on the 18th September with absenting himself from duty without the leave of his employer. He was in the service of Mr. G. Murray Bain and received \$10 a month wages. On the 17th August, two days after he was engaged, he went away to bury his father and left a substitute to do his work, but he did not return. On the 14th inst. he wrote a letter to the substitute saying that he could not return before the 26th and "if master cannot wait till then he can easily get another servant." Mr. Bain was suspicious and communicated with the police, who found that the boy had enrolled himself in the service of the Chief Justice at a salary of \$11 a month. A summons was served on him—the boy, not the Chief Justice—but he failed to turn up at 10 o'clock on Thursday morning, the time mentioned in the summons. A warrant was consequently issued and the boy explained to the Magistrate that the reason he did not attend the Police Court was that he was waiting upon the Chief Justice at the time. The Magistrate said the boy had lied and written lies and he would be fined \$12, with the alternative of six weeks imprisonment.

Assistant Paymaster Henry J. Troughton has been appointed Secretary to Admiral C. L. Oxley, second in command on the China Station, to date 16th August.

On Tuesday morning the night soil coolies went on strike. Their only grievance is that they are now compelled to take out free licences and use buckets supplied by the Sanitary Board, which are also given to them. There is absolutely no charge made, but somebody has persuaded them that they will be taxed, and a guild is supporting them to the extent of giving each man \$6 a month while they are on strike. The Sanitary Board officials are doing their best to cope with the block in the cleansing work caused by the defiant attitude of the coolies and a number of new men have already been obtained, so that it is probable that the cleansing work will be carried on, although of course somewhat slowly. It is well to know that householders can prosecute the coolies for refusing to work, and one prominent official has expressed his determination to charge his coolie as soon as the rebellious one can be caught. There ought to be no half measures adopted in a strike of this kind. Yesterday afternoon the Sanitary Board officials heard that the strikers would return to work to-day.

At the Police Court on Tuesday, before Hon. Commander Hastings, Mr. C. Ewens, solicitor, was summoned for failing to comply with two notices calling upon him to abate a nuisance at 140, Praya West. Mr. Ewens explained at the outset that he was not the owner of the property and had nothing to do with it. On the death of the tenant for life he might have something to do with it. He had told the Sanitary Board officer who was the proper person to serve the notice upon, Mr. McCallum, the Secretary to the Sanitary Board, told the Magistrate that Mr. Ewens was registered at the Land Office as the trustee of the property. Mr. Ewens replied that there was no registration at all of titles at the Land Office; there was only a registration of deeds. The Sanitary Board had no difficulty in their way. The section said the person liable was "any house owner or the person for the time being receiving the rents of the premises." He did not receive the rents and had no control over the premises. Chan Ching was the person liable and the Sanitary Board could summon him. He (Mr. Ewens) was willing to give the Board every assistance and he did not think they ought to do this kind of thing. Mr. McCallum suggested that the summons against Mr. Ewens should be dismissed. A summons would be taken out against Chan Ching. The Magistrate thereupon dismissed the summons against Mr. Ewens.

At the Police Court on the 17th September W. Krafer, proprietor of the Rose, Shamrock, and Thistle Hotel, was charged, together with his wife, with behaving in a disorderly manner on his licensed premises on the 15th inst. Mr. H. L. Dennis defended. P.C. 14 stated that he was on duty in Queen's Road West at about 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday and saw a large crowd collected outside the Rose, Shamrock, and Thistle. He dispersed the crowd and went into the house, where he saw the two defendants. They were quarrelling and making a great commotion; the female defendant was crying. He persuaded the two to cease the disturbance, which, however, was shortly renewed by the woman rushing at her husband and striking him with her fist. The constable ordered the woman upstairs and thinking the quarrel was ended departed. He entered the house again shortly afterwards and the woman told him she would charge her husband. The constable accordingly took him in custody and told the woman that she would have to come to the station to substantiate her accusation. She thereupon withdrew the charge, saying she did not wish to go to the station. The constable then released the man, but informed him that both he and his wife would be summoned for disorderly conduct. For the defence Mr. Dennis submitted that the whole affair was only a "squabble" between man and wife; it was not a case in which heavy punishment should be inflicted. Hon. Commander Hastings bound the defendants over in the sum of \$25 each to keep the peace for six months.

At the Police Court, on the 18th September, a Chinaman was charged with enticing into and attempting to take away from the colony two men for the purposes of emigration. On the 15th inst. the defendant arrived in Hongkong with the two men, who hail from Tamsui and state themselves to be farm labourers. The defendant told them that if they would come to Hongkong with him and work as stone cutters he would give them \$2 a month besides their keep. They blindly accepted the proposal and started on their journey with the defendant, not knowing where Hongkong was. When they arrived here the defendant said they had not yet reached their destination but that they would have to remain here one day. It was the defendant's intention to get the men to Singapore and the *Hydaspes* was sailing for that port the next day. He therefore lodged the men in a coolie house and told them that they must on no account leave it until they again started on their journey. The next day the men were safely got on board the *Hydaspes*. Whilst Sergt. Holt was making his usual inspection of the emigrants he noticed the defendant with the two men and as he is fairly well known to the police the sergeant thought he would question his two charges as to their destination. They replied that they did not know where they were going. In the meantime the defendant had disappeared and this fact strengthened the suspicions of Sergt. Holt. He searched the ship and found the man stowed away in a small compartment at the fore part of the ship. He was then arrested. Commander Hastings sentenced him to six months' hard labour.

What is the proper way to administer the declaration to a Chinese witness? We ask the question because lately a new departure has been made in the Summary Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court in the method of administering the declaration. When a Chinese witness gets into the box he is asked his name and then the clerk says in English: "I — do solemnly and sincerely declare that the evidence I shall give shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth." The interpreter then tells the witness to repeat the Chinese declaration, using the usual phraseology. We confess our inability to understand why the clerk now reads the English declaration before the witness makes the declaration in Chinese. It is certain that not one witness in a hundred understands what the clerk says and, moreover, the interpreter does not interpret those words. The English translation of the Chinese declaration is, we believe, "I purify my heart that I will tell all the true matter which I know of, that I will tell straightforwardly and according to truth and not the least falsehood." If the law does require the clerk to read the declaration in English—and if that is so it is curious that the fact has only just been discovered—then why is not the system in vogue in all the courts and why is not a correct translation given? In the Bankruptcy Court, on the 17th September a Chinese witness was sworn in the old style, while the same custom is still observed in the Police Court. We do not know who is responsible for introducing the new system, but it strikes us as being a useless waste of time; the law's delay is not in need of prolongation. If reforms are made let them at least be reasonable and consistent.

#### MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

18th September.

The Lisbon Government has granted permission to Mr. Joao Antonio Barreto, of Hongkong, who some time ago went to Portugal and is now in England, to start a Company to be named the Overseas Exploration and Finance Co. Limited. The head office of the Company will be in England. The capital is to be £24,400, divided into 24,000 ordinary shares of £1 each and 8,000 founders' shares of 1s. each. The object is to explore the island of Timor for gold, petroleum, etc., and to work the same. It is believed the following will be the directors: Joao Antonio Barreto, 354, Leadenhall House, 101, Leadenhall Street, E.C., merchant; H. Ind, 119, Dynevor Road, N.; L. W. Lowther,

1, Jersey Terrace, Prospect Road, Woodford Green; Herbert S. Cook, 22, Allendale Road, Denmark Hill, S.E.; G. E. Whiting, 33, Sherlock Road, N.; S. N. Melton, 392, Fulham Road, S.W.; W. G. Round, 78, Gleamarne Road, Lower Clapton, N.E.; all of whom take one share each. I hope the Company will prosper and that the shareholders will get a fair return on their money, and not share the misfortune of the members of the Syndicate formed some time ago for the same object, but who as yet have neither seen the gold or the accounts nor got back any of the \$15,000 they subscribed. The explorers on that occasion were the same gentlemen, Messrs. Joao Antonio Barreto and Jozé Maria de Castro Basto, who are at present in Europe engaged by the new Company.

The last Timor mail brings further news of the way things are mismanaged in that country and of the despotism of the Governor. The Government servants there have not received their pay since last June. By every mail that goes from here Timor takes from the treasury of Macao some thousands of dollars. The mail that left on the 11th instant took another \$7,500. All this money, as well as the revenue raised in Timor itself, disappears like water through a sieve. It is also stated in one of the papers here that fines imposed in Timor to the amount of several thousand dollars have not been brought into account. What has been done with the money? An inquiry into the affairs of the island should be made and perhaps some mischief would be discovered, as in the case of the Santa Casa da Misericordia, in which on inquiry it was found that more than a thousand dollars were missing. The Government already owes to the Chinese merchants in Timor more than half a lakh of rupees and almost an equal amount to the Municipal Chamber of that island. The Governor seems to do what he likes, there being no one to oppose his action. And it is always Macao that has to pay for it. Would it not be better for the Government to dispose of the island before greater mischief is done? If the island cannot be made to yield a sufficient revenue, if the natives cannot be brought under the influences of education and civilization and induced to work, it would be much better to sell it and so get rid of the expense and trouble.

The transport *Africa* came out very quietly and is at present at Timor, but in a very short time she will no doubt be seen in Macao harbour. And what will she come for? She will bring nothing except some Lisbon sausages, a few casks of wine, and perhaps some tins of preserved fruits, for influential people who will either take them for their own consumption or do a small trade in them; and on her return the vessel will take a few packages from China to the friends who have sent the sausages, etc. We would bless the day if we heard that the transport was going home without coming here. If she does come our treasury will be impoverished, for she will take away at least \$80,000 from this poor colony.

H. E. Senhor Horta e Costa left Marseilles on the 13th ultimo, not on the date previously announced. Subscriptions to provide funds for a grand reception of his Excellency have been opened and up to the present something over \$1,300 have been subscribed.

Last Friday, at noon, at the Chinese theatre, a servant employed there cut his throat and died a few hours afterwards. The cause of the suicide is unknown.

At the beginning of this year the Government appointed a Commission to take a census of Macao. The work of preparing the returns is now almost completed. The Chinese population has largely increased, but the Portuguese has decreased. Next week I hope to be able to send you details.

The tender for eight locomotives, handed in by Jameson & Co., representing Baldwin's firm of the United States, is the one chosen by the Tientsin Railway authorities as being the most suitable for their requirements. The tender in question, our readers will remember, was the lowest one presented on the 25th ultimo, the price being £2,498 passenger and £2,530 freight, with £619 and £565, respectively, for spare parts.—*Peking and Tientsin Times*.

#### CANTON NOTES.

##### FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."

A few days ago about thirty years of age, living in Mong Sheng Lane, Honam, gave birth to a son having two heads and two pairs of arms and hands, the additional pair being much smaller and projecting from the armpits. The parents, who thought that the child was unlucky, did not nourish it, and it died on the following day. A good many people went to see the child.

Several days ago about one hundred wooden huts in San-hu, Chan-tsun, were destroyed by fire. A good many poor people were rendered homeless.

A junk named *Kwang Sun*, which was plying between Shik-ki and Macao, struck on a rock near Malochow. The master of the junk managed to beach her. No life was lost, but all the cargo was damaged.

Two notorious robbers named Cheung Wan and Chung Sam have gathered about three hundred criminals to form a secret society in Chik-lai-heung, in Fa-un district. They have plundered many junks and on the 2nd instant more than thirty houses were robbed in Han-lun-kiang village. The people of the surrounding villages are greatly frightened and are constantly on guard. The matter has been reported to the local officers, but they appear to be deaf and blind.

On the 14th instant three men who came from Fatshan to collect debts went into an eating house in Lun-hing Street, in Canton, to take chow-chow. While they were taking their dinner several robbers who were taking their meal in the next room sprang forward and pointed their revolvers at the money collectors, who were compelled to give up all the money which they had in their possession to the amount of three hundred dollars. The robbers then went away, no one daring to pursue or stop them.

Some days ago a man named Lam-man-shui petitioned the Government to be allowed to continue the work of making the river bund which remains unfinished. His application was refused.

On the 29th June, during the typhoon, more than one thousand houses were washed away by the overflow of the rivers in the villages of San-oi and Moi-long, in Fa-nn district. Several tens of lives were lost by drowning and thousands of people were rendered homeless. The local San-sz have sent letters to the charitable institutions in Canton asking them to raise subscriptions to relieve the sufferers.

Ki Sui-yang, brother of Ki-king-san, leader of the late rebellion in Ku-chow district, has been arrested, and he is now waiting trial. A reward of one thousand taels was offered for his arrest.

#### JAPANESE COAL.

The following note on Japanese coal, by Mr. Frank Browne, Acting Government Analyst, appears in the *Chemical News* of the 14th August:

The sample examined was that variety known as Yubari coal, from the island of Yezo. It was in large black lumps, which when broken up gave a dark chocolate-brown powder. It burned readily, giving at first a bright smoky flame, which disappeared after a short time, leaving a glowing mass. It is a non-caking coal. The results of the analysis show high percentages of volatile combustible matter and of ash.

It consisted of—

|                             |         |       |
|-----------------------------|---------|-------|
| Moisture                    | ... ... | 3.83  |
| Volatile combustible matter | ... ... | 36.62 |
| Fixed carbon                | ... ... | 42.70 |
| Ash                         | ... ... | 16.85 |

100.00

Ultimate analysis of the dried coal grave—

|   |         |       |
|---|---------|-------|
| Carbon                                    | ... ... | 62.84 |
| Hydrogen                                  | ... ... | 6.37  |
| Nitrogen                                  | ... ... | 1.08  |
| Oxygen (calculated)                       | ... ... | 11.01 |
| Sulphur (combustible)                     | ... ... | 1.18  |
| Ash (containing 0.49 per cent of sulphur) | ... ... | 17.52 |

100.00

The relative density (water at 15.5 deg.=1) was 1.411.

The heat of combustion calculated from the following formula—  
8080 C plus 34462 (H - O/8) plus 2220 S gave 6826 calories.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

The wreck of the *Governor Goodwin*, stranded on Princes Island, along with her cargo of fifty thousand cases of petroleum, was sold by auction, at Batavia, on the 28th August, for twenty-eight thousand guilders.

The Yokohama Shokin Ginko on the 7th September raised its rate of daily interest on advances and discounts by one *rin* per 1,000 yen, the interest on fixed deposits by half per cent., and the interest on current deposits by one per cent. per annum.

We (*N. C. Daily News*) hear that a shroff, employed by a German firm in Tienstin, has absconded with a very large sum of money. Telegrams have been sent to all the ports to keep a look-out on steamers coming from the North, with a view to his arrest.

The native press reports that in Hangchow the new maloo in front of the foreign concession is fast nearing completion, and that it will be a most beneficial addition to that city. It is also reported that a native syndicate, working in conjunction with Japanese, has applied for permission to form an electric light company and for the contract to light the new city.—*Shanghai Daily Press*.

The *N. C. Daily News* of the 10th September says:—In consequence of the imposition of an additional likin of some sort at Newchwang, the native merchants at that port on Tuesday resorted to the usual mode of remonstrance in China and entirely ceased business. An agreement, however, was soon come to, as yesterday the shipping companies in Shanghai received telegrams to the effect that the difficulty had been adjusted and business was proceeding as usual.

The expectant Prefect who has been deputed by the Viceroy of Szechuen to inquire into the trade disputes between Thibet and China is to travel to Lhassa by the Calcutta-Darjeeling route. The statement in a Calcutta paper that his mission is connected with Thibetan and Nepalese frontier affairs is incorrect. An agreement settling the points in dispute between the Khatmandu and Lhassa Governments was signed some weeks ago.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The *Avenir du Tonkin* says:—The sailing ship *Calburga* has arrived at Haiphong from New York direct with a cargo of kerosine. Messrs. Speidel & Co. are her consignees. This is the first kerosine cargo that has arrived in our port for two years. This direct importation is due to the lowering of the import duty. Another sailing vessel is expected in three months. The *Calburga* is in negotiation with the Kebao Mining Company to take a cargo of coal to San Francisco.

The *Foochow Echo* of the 12th September says:—The second officer and four Chinese of the crew of the steamer *Hangchow* had a terrible time of it on Monday and Tuesday last between Matsu and Rees Rock. The steamer was on her way from Hongkong to Shanghai and had proceeded as far as the latitude of Matsu when some accident occurred to the machinery beyond the powers of the engineers to repair at sea and the small party above-mentioned was despatched in an open boat to give information of the unfortunate occurrence to the agents at Foochow. As ill luck would have it the boat capsized and the five men had to sit on the keel the greater part of Monday, all Monday night, and best part of Tuesday, when they were taken off by the captain of a passing junk. Some scanty provisions they had taken with them were of course lost. It goes without saying that they suffered terribly from exposure and want of food, but most especially we hear from thirst. One of the Chinese is still in the Pagoda hospital; the others have recovered. As regards the *Hangchow* we understand that the steamer *Chefoo* was sent to her assistance from Amoy and that she was towed to Shanghai.

The German gunboat *Wolf*, well known in these waters, is at present fitting out at Dantzig, and will sail for the Eastern-Asiatic station in October. She is, however, to remain out here but a year, when she will be relieved by two small fast cruisers, at present building; they are to be stationed out here permanently.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The *Nagasaki Express* of the 17th September says:—The Russian Volunteer steamer *Saratov*, which left here on Sunday last for Vladivostock, had 1,600 soldiers on board. The *Kiev*, which arrived yesterday morning and leaves on Saturday, has 700. As far as we can gather, the number of men returning either invalided or time expired averages about one-third of the number going to Vladivostock and the Amoor. Exactly how many are assembled there no one appears able to say, but from 60,000 to 80,000 appears to be somewhere near the mark.

Despatches received from Nanch'ang, the provincial capital of Kiangsi, report that the high authorities there have decided to open a number of mines producing coal, iron, and lead. Two foreign mining engineers, engaged last year by H.E. Chang Chih-tung during his acting Viceroyship at Nanking, are now in Kiangsi exploiting the province. The first region explored was the district of Pinghsiang, a border town, on the Hunan frontier, and the mine reported favourably upon was one producing very good coal.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The mercantile community at Manila has long been troubled by the bad quality of the hemp supplies in the market from adulteration and bad preparation. The result has been a fall in prices and increasing discredit on the article. The large exporting firms there have held a meeting to consider the subject, at which they came to the conclusion that the producers or cultivators were to blame for the evil practices which have brought such a bad name upon hemp. It remains now to convince the producers of their faults.—*Straits Times*.

It is reported from Haichou, on the north coast of Kiangsu, where happened the recent tidal wave, that the inhabitants of that department are suffering greatly from famine and the destruction of their crops and homes. The loss of life is said to be fortunately very much smaller than at first reported, owing to the inhabitants having received sufficient warning to escape to higher ground before the destructive inrush of the tidal wave came in. The provincial government consider themselves able to relieve the distress.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The *N. C. Daily News* says:—A gang of smugglers escorting ten boats laden with salt which had not paid excise duty and valued at several thousand dollars passed through the neighbouring district of Chiashan (colloquial Kahzay) last Friday (11th Sept.), and were challenged by the likin gunboat stationed at a harrier which the salt fleet were just passing. No answer being given by the smugglers the revenue boat fired a blank shot to order the smugglers to heave to. A volley from the latter was the only reply, whereupon the gunboat crew unmoored and gave chase. A conflict then took place, resulting in seven smugglers being killed, and the rest abandoning their cargoes to the gunboat. One officer and a sailor were killed in the fight.

The Taku Tug and Lighter Company have been engaged during the week in an interesting experiment to improve the condition of the Peiho River. Placing an eight and two six-inch centrifugal pumps on one of the large light-draught lighters, the *Taku*, the lighter was taken up river until a depth of five feet was reached, and then anchored and the pumps set to work. Contracted nozzles had been attached to the discharge pipes, and in an incredibly short time the river was deepened by three or four feet. Three or four miles of the river were thus treated, and the Company were enabled to set free four lighters and a tow-boat which had been imprisoned in the silt for several weeks. Had the breach in the river been closed there would have been sufficient current to have cleared all the upper reaches; as it is, on account of the want of current, silt accumulates a mile or two below the place where the pumps are at work.—*Peking and Tientsin Times*.

The native Christians of Seoul held a mass meeting on the 2nd September in honour of the King of Korea's birthday. There was no official entertainment on account of the mourning for the late Queen.

The *N. C. Daily News* says:—The demolition has begun of one of the oldest and best known hongs in Shanghai, the old Taiping Hong in Kinkiang Road. It was built in the same year as Messrs. Dent & Co.'s, 1846, and was occupied by Messrs. Gilman & Co. as their senior hong for about 35 years. It then passed into the possession of Dr. Little, and subsequently of the Land Investment Association, and after fifty years of service has now to make room for a larger building.

The *Singapore Free Press* of the 9th September says:—By the *Isla de Panay*, the Spanish mail steamer that left for Barcelona last evening, there were some passengers who might have been able, had they been at liberty, to give some interesting particulars of the state of affairs in the Philippines. But like the newspapers in that colony, they had been probably "advised" to be careful not to say too much, nor even to go out to tiffin. Sr. Gachitoren, a rich and important resident of Manila, was a passenger by the *Panay*.

Captain Ridderbijlke, who is essaying a voyage across the Pacific in a small boat, has not gone very far on his travels before meeting with obstacles and detentions, says the *Japan Mail*. A few days out from Yokohama he had to run for shelter, and now our contemporary learns from a letter received by a local resident that he has again encountered bad weather. This time his damages are severe, the canvas covering of his boat being ripped up and many of the fittings having been carried away. He ran into Miyako for shelter and intends to go up to Hakodate for a thorough refit. He writes that he has received great kindness from all Japanese he has come in contact with so far on his voyage.

The *China Gazette* of the 9th September say:—Although cholera has unfortunately made its appearance among ships in port, it is very gratifying to learn that at the present time no residents are being treated for the disease at the General Hospital, and that so far it has shown no inclination to assume epidemic form. Three men were recently sent from the Shanghai-owned barque *Drumeltan* to the hospital, and of these one died yesterday. One man was admitted from the ship *Samantha* and he died this morning. A man-of-war's man from the U.S. cruiser *Boston* is also stricken with cholera and is in the hospital. Mr. W. Dunsmore, an officer on the *Ghazee*, and a seaman on the articles of the *Bayern* are both undergoing treatment for the same complaint.

Referring to affairs in the Philippines the *Nagasaki Express* says:—"The master of almost any vessel trading there can generally cite cases innumerable to prove that the word 'Manila' is synonymous with 'squeeze.' Here is a case in point: Some years ago the Chinamen of Manila, who are a numerous and very influential body, sought to have some of the civil disabilities under which they suffered removed. Accordingly, they sent to Paris and obtained two diamond necklaces, worth some \$60,000 apiece, and a deputation asked for an interview with the Governor-General. That official graciously listened to their complaints, and promised to do what he could in the matter. He would, he said, insert the thin end of the wedge, and afterwards it could be driven home. The deputation then informed him that they had brought a small present for Her Excellency, his wife. The lady, who doubtless had an inkling of what was to come, was summoned; the necklaces were displayed before her, and she was asked to take her choice. She hesitated, looked from one to the other, and then thanked the Chinamen so much the necklaces were such beauties that 'really' she didn't know which to choose and so she would keep them both. And she did. A few months afterwards her husband became involved in some trouble with the ecclesiastical authorities, who really 'rule the roost.' They demanded his recall to Spain, the Governor-General went home, and the poor Chinamen are still bewailing the loss of their diamond necklaces."

## COMMERCIAL.

## TEA.

SHANGHAI, 18th September.—(From Messrs. Welch, Lewis & Co.'s circular).—Our last "printed" Tea-market advices were under date 4th instant. The North China Daily News of 17th instant says:—Mr. C. J. Dudgeon is proceeding almost immediately to Peking to urge upon the Foreign Ministers the importance of appointing a Commission to sit in Shanghai to consider the whole question of the proposed revision of the Commercial Treaties with China." Mr. Dudgeon goes to Peking at the instance of the China Association and of the Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce, to whom the buyers of Tea at this port have addressed a letter on the inland and export duties; they justly consider these heavy duties as a principal cause of the decline in the China Tea trade.

Black Tea.—A small business has been done at about previous rates.

Ningchow. 240 lbs.-cwt. at Tls. 13.00 to 20.25 a p.c. Keemun... 161 " " 15.75 " Kutoan... 169 " " 12.75 " Wenchow. 427 " " 13.00 to 14.50 " Oonam... 1,789 " " 11.00 to 13.25 "

Total ... 2,786 lbs.-cheats.

Stock.—About 3,000 half-cheats hard cargo in Shanghai. The stock in Hankow is said to be 40,000/50,000 half-cheats.

Green Teas.—The export figures to the United States and Canada for this mail show a surprising falling off compared with those for many years past, but they will probably prove to be the most favourable of the season, as about 3½ million pounds weight have been bought and are in course of shipment.

Pingsueys.—The settlements reported in the past four weeks amount to 95,290 boxes and 1,173 half-cheats which, we believe, are the largest settlements recorded for the same number of weeks. Prices show little or no change, but buyers have benefited by a reduction in steamer freight to New York from £2 to £1.10 and a little lower exchange.

Country Teas.—A moderate business has been current at about former rates. Choice Moyunes and Tienkais are still in demand at full prices. The market for Fychows is firm, former prices being refused. Teamen show no disposition to give way in their prices, as they believe the decrease in supplies will enable them to maintain rates at present level. Latest estimates of total yield are reduced to 180,000 and 190,000 half-cheats.

Hysons.—This market has been very excited for common to finest Teas: choice Teas have been readily saleable at full prices. The present mail takes about 10,000 half-cheats to Bombay.

Settlements reported since 4th instant:—

Pingsuey ... 20,434 lbs.-cwt. at Tls. 15.00 to 28.00 a p.c. Moyune ... 9,121 " " 16.50 to 35.00 " Tienkai ... 5,334 " " 18.00 to 39.00 " Fychow ... 1,169 " " 14.50 to 18.00 " Local P'ked 581 " " 13.75 to 24.00 "

Total ... 36,639 lbs.-cmts. Settlements from opening of the market to date:—

1896 to 1897.

Settlements. Stock.

Pingsuey ... 10,492 lbs.-cmts. ... 15,901 lbs.-cmts. Moyune ... 34,992 " " 22,364 " Tienkai ... 24,493 " " 968 "

Total ... 138,243 lbs.-cmts. ... 39,233 lbs.-cmts.

Several thousand Pingsueys have arrived, and are not included in above stocks.

## EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

1896-97 1895-96

|                           |                   |                   |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Canton and Macao .....    | 3,471,987         | 4,048,439         |
| Shanghai and Hankow ..... | 14,783,294        | 15,295,237        |
| Foochow .....             | 5,976,756         | 7,509,809         |
|                           | <b>24,232,037</b> | <b>26,853,485</b> |

## EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

1896-97 1895-96

|                |                   |                   |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Shanghai ..... | 6,475,373         | 16,748,669        |
| Amoy .....     | 6,998,012         | 5,903,381         |
| Foochow .....  | 1,131,222         | 1,608,212         |
|                | <b>14,604,607</b> | <b>24,260,265</b> |

## EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

1896-97 1895-96

|                           |            |           |
|---------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Shanghai and Hankow ..... | 22,544,742 | 27,040,68 |
|---------------------------|------------|-----------|

## EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

1896-97 1895-96

|                |                   |                   |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Yokohama ..... | 17,841,620        | 24,05,252         |
| Kobe .....     | 9,292,675         | 14,740,6 2        |
|                | <b>27,134,295</b> | <b>38,745,914</b> |

SHANGHAI, 17th September.—(From Mr. A. R. Burkhill's circular) —London advises to 16th current quote Gold Kilin 8/3, Blue Elephant 10/6. and the market quiet. Kaw Silk.—The market has been fairly active during the week, and the aggregate of business is larger than for any previous week this season. Tsattees.—1,200 bales have been booked on a basis of Tls. 345 for Gold Kilins, a slight reduction in price on last mail's rates, and buyers have had a further advantage in a lower Exchange. All classes of Tsattees have been in demand, the Kilin chops being perhaps most favoured. Taysams.—Settlements of about 200 bales are reported; prices are fully maintained. Yellow Silk.—Arrivals are small and are generally bought up at once at full prices. About 200 bales are reported settled. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns 10th to 16th current, 733 bales White, 231 piculs Yellow, and 204 piculs Wild Silks. Filatures and Re-reels.—150/200 bales Hand Filatures have been settled at last mail's rates and some Steam Filatures are going forward, but terms and prices have not transpired. The export of Steam Filatures to date is as follows:—To London 8 bales, Continent 593 bales, and to America 164 bales. Wild Silk.—Arrivals are small, and nothing is offering for sale. Waste Silk.—This market is extremely dull; the few orders received are generally below holders' ideas. Prices for most kinds are weak, but the concessions required before business can become general are still considerable and holders have not yet made up their minds to face the inevitable losses.

## EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

1896-97 1895-96

|                |               |               |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Canton .....   | 9,276         | 5,808         |
| Shanghai ..... | 10,710        | 25,967        |
| Yokohama ..... | 1,680         | 7,843         |
|                | <b>21,866</b> | <b>39,618</b> |

## EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

1896-97 1895-96

|                |              |               |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|
| Canton .....   | 547          | 4,044         |
| Shanghai ..... | 360          | 3,478         |
| Yokohama ..... | 750          | 6,661         |
|                | <b>1,657</b> | <b>14,183</b> |

## CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 23rd September.—The market continues dull and prices have a downward tendency. Quotations for Formosa are \$48.50 to \$49.00. During the week sales have been 100 piculs.

## SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 23rd September.—The market is weaker and prices have declined. Following are the quotations:—

|  |
|--|
| Shekloong, No. 1, White... \$7.25 to 7.28 per p.c.<br>do. " 2. White... 6.55 to 6.57 " |
| Shekloong, No. 1, Brown... 4.54 to 4.57 "<br>do. " 2. Brown... 4.37 to 4.40 "          |
| Swatow, No. 1, White... 7.15 to 7.17 "<br>do. " 2. White... 6.50 to 6.52 "             |
| Swatow, No. 1, Brown... 4.37 to 4.40 "<br>do. " 2. Brown... 4.25 to 4.27 "             |
| Soochow Sugar Candy..... 10.30 to 10.50 "<br>Shekloong " 9.45 to 9.47 "                |

## MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

The steamer *Tantalus*, Hongkong to London, 15th September, took:—7,679 boxes Tea (14,796 lbs. Congou, 130,956 lbs. Scented Caper, 4,515 Scented Orange Pekoe), 50 boxes Essential Oil, 28 cases M. O. P. Shells, 19 cases Chinaware, 10 cases Preserves, 224 cases Preserves, 200 bales Pierce Cacoons, 40 bales Mat Bags, 210 rolls Mats, 65 rolls Matting, and 9 packages Sundries; for London and or Manchester:—125 bales Waste Silk; for Manchester:—1 package

Sundries; for Glasgow:—326 cases Ginger, 30 bales Rattanware; for New York:—18 cases Essential Oil.

The American ship *Commodore T. H. Allen*, Hongkong to New York, 15th September, took:—20,792 rolls Matting, 10,332 packages Tea, 2,000 bales Cassia Lignea, 1,800 cases Palin Leaf Fans, 625 packages Fire Crackers, 401 cases Saigon Cassia, 100 casks Soy, 79 cases Bamboo Fans, 42 bales Rattancore, 37 cases Blackwoodware, 14 cases Chinaware, and 10 packages Rattanware.

The German steamer *Bayern*, Hongkong to Europe, 15th September, took:—for Smyrna, 10 boxes Essential Oil; for Trieste, 200 bales Waste Silk; for Genoa, 56 bales Canes, 10 boxes Essential Oil, 2 packages Merchandies; for Antwerp, 160 rolls Matting, 128 bales Feathers, 73 bales Leaf Tobacco, 53 packages Rattancore, 50 cases Gallnuts, 50 packages Tea, 21 bales Hemp; for Antwerp/Bremen and/or Hamburg, 14 bales Feathers; for Antwerp/London, 90 cases Bristles; for Amsterdam/Rotterdam and/or Hamburg, 350 cases Ginger; for Amsterdam, 70 cases Preserves, 25 cases Preserves; for Rotterdam, 400 cases Cassia; for Liverpool, 6 bales Wool; for Bremen, 538 rolls Matting, 32 cases Sundries; for Bremen/Hamburg, 50 rolls Mast; for London, 22 cases Essential Oil; for Oporto, 80 packages Rattanware; for Rio de Janeiro, 1 case Cuios; for Hamburg, 70 bales Feathers, 10 boxes Essential Oil, 1 case Samples.

The French steamer *Saghalien*, Hongkong to France 16th September, took:—533 bales Raw Silk, 7 bales Hair, 21 cases Silk Piece Goods, 10 cases Essential Oil, 25 cases Bristles, 14 cases Chinaware, 400 cases Cassia, 20 packages Cow Hides, 50 packages Canes, 2 bags Rice; for Milan:—50 bales Raw Silk; for London:—25 bales Raw Silk.

## OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 23rd September.—Bengal.—The market has ruled quiet during the interval and prices have declined, New Patna closing at \$727½, Old Patna at \$750, and New Benares at \$760.

Malwa.—There has been no demand for New descriptions, whilst in Old a fair amount of business has been done. Current quotations are as under:—

|   |
|---|
| New (this yr's) \$720 with all ages of 3½ to 4½ cts.<br>" (last yr's) \$730 " 1½ to 4 " |
| Old (2/3 yrs.) \$740 " 0 to 2 "   |
| Old (4/5 yrs.) \$750 " 0 to 1½ "  |
| Old (6/8 yrs.) \$770 " 0 to 2½ "  |

Persian.—The demand has been slack and very few sales have taken place during the past week. Prices close at \$550 to \$600 for Oily and \$550 to \$650 Paper-wrapped.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

|                               |
|-------------------------------|
| New Patna ..... 1,969 chests. |
| Old Patna ..... 53 "          |
| New Benares ..... 325 "       |
| Malwa ..... 402 "             |
| Persian ..... 362 "           |

## COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

| DATE.    | PATNA. |      | BENARES. |      | MALWA.  |         |
|----------|--------|------|----------|------|---------|---------|
|          | New.   | Old. | New.     | Old. | New.    | Old.    |
| 1896.    | \$     | \$   | \$       | \$   | \$      | \$      |
| Sept. 16 | 735    | 750  | 762½     | —    | 720/730 | 740/770 |
| Sept. 17 | 735    | 750  | 762½     | —    | 720/730 | 740/770 |
| Sept. 18 | 735    | 750  | 762½     | —    | 720/730 | 740/770 |
| Sept. 19 | 733½   | 750  | 760      | —    | 720/730 | 740/770 |
| Sept. 20 | 733½   | 750  | 760      | —    | 720/730 | 740/770 |
| Sept. 21 | 732½   | 750  | 760      | —    | 720/730 | 740/770 |
| Sept. 22 | 727½   | 750  | 760      | —    | 720/730 | 740/770 |
| Sept. 23 | 727½   | 750  | 760      | —    | 720/730 | 740/770 |

## COTTON.

HONGKONG, 23rd September.—There are no sales to report for the past fortnight, the prices demanded by importers being considered too high by the dealers. Stocks, about 700 bales Bengal.

Bombay ..... \$14.00 to 17.00 p. pl.

Kurrachee ..... 13.00 to 16.00 "

Bengal, Rangoon, and Dacca ..... 15.00 to 17.50 "

Shanghai and Japanese ..... 18.00 to 19.00 "

Tungchow and Ningpo ..... 18.00 to 19.00 "

Madras ..... 14.00 to 17.00 "

## RICE.

HONGKONG, 23rd September.—The market still has an upward tendency. Closing quotations are:—

per picul.

Saigon, Ordinary ..... \$2.30 to 2.33

" Round, good quality ..... 2.4 to 2.56

" Long ..... 2.70 to 2.75

|                                  |                |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2 | \$2.40 to 2.43 |
| Garden, " No. 1                  | 2.82 to 2.84   |
| White .....                      | 3.12 to 3.15   |
| Fine Cargo .....                 | 3.20 to 3.33   |

## COALS.

HONGKONG, 23rd September.—Market quiet; small sales reported. Quotations are:—  
 Cardiff ..... \$13.25 to 14 ex godown, nom.  
 Australian ... 6.50 to — ex ship, nominal.  
 Miike Lump... 5.60 to 5.75 ex ship, nominal.  
 Miike Small... 4.65 to — ex ship, do  
 Moji Lump ... 4.25 to 5.50 ex ship, nominal.

## MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 23rd September.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE Goods:—Bombay Yarn.—25 bales No. 6 at \$67. 25 bales No. 8 at 70 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; 1,440 bales No. 10 at \$75 $\frac{1}{2}$  to \$80 $\frac{1}{2}$ , 659 bales No. 12 at \$79 $\frac{1}{2}$  to \$83 $\frac{1}{2}$ , 265 bales No. 16 at \$87 to \$94, 940 bales No. 20 at \$97 $\frac{1}{2}$  to \$100. Grey Shirtings.—2,100 pieces 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. Red 7 Boys at \$2.60, 300 pieces 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. Red Cock at \$2.60, 750 pieces 10 lbs. Red Man at \$3.30. White Shirtings.—500 pieces No. 600 at \$4.40, 600 pieces Goose at \$4.27 $\frac{1}{2}$ , 600 pieces E.K. at \$5.80, 500 pieces S.T. at \$4.35, 500 pieces S.Q. at \$4.42 $\frac{1}{2}$ , 250 pieces B. at \$5.05, 250 pieces Palm and Elephant at \$5. 250 pieces K.K.K. at \$4.30, 500 pieces Elephant and Tree at \$5, 500 pieces Fan at \$5.05, 150 pieces Blue Lion at \$5.75. T-Cloths.—2,250 pieces 7 lbs. Red Stag at \$2.40, 375 pieces 7 lbs. Blue Dragon B at \$2.15, 375 pieces 7 lbs. Blue Dragon BB at \$2.30, 600 pieces 7 lbs. Hunter-and-Stag C.C. at \$3.15, 600 pieces 8 lbs. V.V. at \$3. Turkey Reds.—800 pieces 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. Fluteman at \$1.37 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Spanish Stripes.—96 pieces BBB at \$0.58 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Long Ells.—250 pieces 8 lbs. Scarlet at \$6.51, 750 pieces 9 lbs. Scarlet at \$7.05, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Scarlet at \$7.55. Comlets.—100 pieces Assorted 9 Old Men at \$17.95, 10 pieces Assorted 9 lbs. Birds at \$12.50, 100 pieces Assorted Tiger Shot at \$13.75.

METALS:—Tin.—100 slabs Fungchai at \$33. Quicksilver.—200 slab; at \$107.

## COTTON YARN.

|                       | per bale           |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20  | \$69.00 to \$89.00 |
| English—Nos. 16 to 24 | 100.00 to 105.00   |
| .. 22 to 24           | 103.00 to 108.00   |
| .. 28 to 32           | 114.00 to 119.00   |
| .. 38 to 42           | 118.00 to 126.00   |

## COTTON PIECE Goods.

|  | per piece    |
|--|--------------|
| Grey Shirtings—Gibs.                                     | 1.40 to 1.55 |
| 7 lbs. ....  | 1.75 to 1.95 |
| 8.4 lbs. ....  | 2.00 to 3.00 |
| 9 to 10 lbs  | 3.20 to 4.00 |
| White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.                             | 2.15 to 2.35 |
| 58 to 60 ,   | 2.50 to 3.10 |
| 64 to 66 ,   | 3.00 to 3.50 |
| Fine .....   | 3.90 to 6.90 |
| Book-folds.  | 3.20 to 5.40 |
| Victoria Lawns—12 yards                                  | 0.60 to 1.25 |
| T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.                          | 1.40 to 1.55 |
| 7lbs. (32 ,), ..   | 1.80 to 2.95 |
| 6lbs. (32 ,), Mexs.                                      | 1.60 to 1.75 |
| 7lbs. (32 ,), ..   | 2.15 to 2.40 |
| 8 to 8.4lbs. (36 in.)                                    | 2.35 to 3.05 |
| Drills, English—40 yds., 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 14 lbs..... | 3.20 to 4.30 |

## FANCY COTTONS.

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Turkey Red Shirtings—1 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 lbs. | 1.20 to 3.50 |
| Brocades—Dyed .....                            | 3.75 to 4.50 |
|  | per yard     |
| Damasks .....                                  | 0.12 to 0.15 |
| Chintzes—Assorted .....                        | 0.07 to 0.10 |
| Velvets—Black, 22 in.....                      | 0.21 to 0.28 |
| Velveteens—18 in. ....                         | 0.16 to 0.20 |
|  | per dozen    |
| Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk                   | 0.40 to 0.85 |

| WOOLLENS                       | per yard       |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.  | 0.55 to 0.95   |
| German .....                   | 1.00 to 1.15   |
| Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths. | 1.25 to 3.50   |
|                                | per piece      |
| Long Ells—Scarlet .....        | 6.50 to 8.00   |
| Assorted .....                 | 6.60 to 8.10   |
| Camlets—Assorted .....         | 13.00 to 27.00 |
| Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches,   | 10.00 to 18.00 |
| Assorted .....                 |                |
| Orleans—Plain .....            | 3.00 to 3.60   |
|                                | per pair       |
| Blankets—3 to 12 lbs. ....     | 4.80 to 8.40   |

| METALS                     | per picul |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Iron—Nail Rod .....        | 3.35 to — |
| Square, Flat Round Bar ... | 3.35 to — |
| Swedish Bar .....          | — to —    |

|                               |                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Small Round Rod .....         | — to —           |
| Hoop .....                    | — to —           |
| Old Wire Rope .....           | — to —           |
| Lead, Australian .....        | 6.70 to —        |
| Yellow M'tal—Muntz, 14/28 oz. | 28.50 to —       |
| Vivian's, 16/32 oz.           | 26.00 to —       |
| Elliot's, 16/28 oz.           | 26.00 to —       |
| Japan Copper, Slabs .....     | 25.00 to —       |
| Tin .....                     | — to —           |
| Tin-Plates .....              | 5.10 to —        |
|                               | per box          |
| Steel .....                   | 4.35 to —        |
| SUNDRIES                      | per picul        |
| Quicksilver .....             | 105.00 to —      |
|                               | per box          |
| Window Glass .....            | 3.50 to —        |
|                               | per 10-gal. case |
| Kerosene Oil .....            | 2.05 to —        |

SHANGHAI, 17th September.—(From Messrs. Noël, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade report.)—The fluctuations in Exchange must again be called in to account for the almost total absence of business to be reported this week. In the earlier part of the week it almost appeared that dealers had made up their minds to buy and several orders were submitted for 8.4-lbs. Grey Shirtings, 19-lbs. Grey Shirtings, English Sheetings, and the Finer White Shirtings. These, with very few exceptions, were refused, but as the difference in prices was more due to the falling exchange than anything else, it would appear that buyers are slowly but surely beginning to agree with importers as to the position of the market. During this period of the year dealers are generally engaged in buying or placing indentures for next year's business, but for well known reasons these transactions have just now been very much curtailed. The usual native settling day, on 21st instant, promises to pass without any difficulty whatever, and as this is accompanied with an easier rate of Bank interest there are already symptoms of dealers preparing to act in earnest when the settlement is over. There is no particular news of interest from any of the Outports. From Tientsin there is a slight demand for medium 8-lbs. Grey Shirtings, but the market generally may be described as dull. Prices for American Drills are strong with little enquiry. Newchwang is very quiet, while there is no business reported from Chefoo. For Ningpo medium 8-lbs. Grey Shirtings are wanted in a small way at current prices. For Hankow there is a small business doing. At a recent meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, the China Association, and representatives of the Cotton Mill Companies it was decided to ask Mr. C. J. Dudgeon to proceed to Peking to explain to the Foreign Ministers the views of the parties interested with reference to the proposed revision of the Commercial Treaties with China. Mr. Dudgeon carries with him the full support of the mercantile community here.

Metals.—(From Messrs. Alex. Bielsfeld & Co.'s report.)—18th September:—The situation remains the same as a week ago, there being no sign of immediate recovery. The sudden drop in Silver to 33d. and in Exchange quotations to 2/10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. only tended to make the outlook more gloomy than it already was. Even goods offered at auction just now meet with but little encouragement, so absolute is the lull in business. Auction.—80 tons Old Cable Wire at Tls. 1.35 to Tls. 1.98. 25 piculs White Metal Sheets at Tls. 30.10.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.  
WEDNESDAY, 23rd September.

## EXCHANGE.

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| ON LONDON.—                              |                   |
| Telegraphic Transfer .....               | 2/1 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Bank Bills, on demand .....              | 2/1 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight .....      | 2/1 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight .....     | 2/1 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Credits, at 4 months' sight .....        | 2/1 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight ..... | 2/1 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| ON PARIS.—                               |                   |
| Bank Bills, on demand .....              | 2.65              |
| Credits, at 4 months' sight .....        | 2.70              |
| ON GERMANY.—                             |                   |
| On demand .....                          | 2.15              |
| ON NEW YORK.—                            |                   |
| Bank Bills, on demand .....              | 51                |
| Credits, 60 days' sight .....            | 52 $\frac{1}{2}$  |
| ON BOMBAY.—                              |                   |
| Telegraphic Transfer .....               | 178               |
| Bank, on demand .....                    | 178 $\frac{1}{2}$ |

|                                     |                      |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| ON CALCUTTA.—                       |                      |
| Telegraphic Transfer .....          | 178                  |
| Bank, on demand .....               | 178 $\frac{1}{2}$    |
| ON SHANGHAI.—                       |                      |
| Bank, at sight .....                | 72 $\frac{1}{2}$     |
| Private, 30 days' sight .....       | 73 $\frac{1}{2}$     |
| ON YOKOHAMA.—                       |                      |
| On demand .....                     | per par              |
| ON MANILA.—                         |                      |
| Ondemand .....                      | 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ pm. |
| ON SINGAPORE.—                      |                      |
| On demand .....                     | par.                 |
| SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate      | 9.32                 |
| GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael ..... | 48.00                |

## JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, September 23rd.—The market has been fairly active during the week under review, the chief features being a sudden weakness in Banks and a rise in Sugars. With these two exceptions rates have ruled steady to strong and close steady.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghais.—In the early part of the week shares changed hands in small lots at 194 and 193 per cent. prem., with small unimportant sales on time as far as February at equivalent rates. Later, however, with a weaker London market and the somewhat threatening aspect of affairs in Europe the rate gradually fell to 191 per cent. prem. with sellers cash and forward and few if any sales. At time of writing shares are obtainable at 191; latest London quotation £43 10s. I am informed on good authority that the non-success in the flotation of the balance of the last Chinese loan does not in any way detrimentally affect the Bank, as it was all underwritten, but shows a very substantial profit to the Corporation. Nationals continue on offer at \$27 without finding buyers.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders have ruled quiet with small sales at \$82. Unions have been easier with sellers at \$25 $\frac{1}{2}$  and small sales. The Company's report, which is now published, recommends a dividend of \$15, a further payment to contributors of 5 per cent. making 25 per cent. in all, and sums of \$150,000 and \$247,950 to the credit of Reserve and to be carried forward respectively. Cantons continue quiet at quotation. Yangtzes have been enquired for during the last few days at \$145, \$147 $\frac{1}{2}$ , and \$150, and are still wanted at the last rate. North Chinas and Straits have changed hands in small lots at quotations.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have continued quiet with small sales at \$342 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Chinas have also ruled quieter with small sales and sellers at \$97.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton, and Macao have continued unchanged with small sales at \$33 $\frac{1}{2}$  and sellers

Nothing else under this heading requires referring to.

**LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.**—Hongkong Lands continue steady to strong with sales at \$75 and \$75 $\frac{1}{2}$ , closing firm at latter rate. West Points continue in demand at \$18 $\frac{1}{2}$  with small sellers at \$19. Kowloon Lands and Humphreys Estate have been neglected at quotations. Hotels after further small sales at \$29 $\frac{1}{2}$  and \$29 close quieter with sellers at \$29.

**DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.**—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have ruled unusually quiet during the week, but have fairly well maintained their position; small sales have been effected at 202 per cent. prem. cash and at 207 and 208 for the end of December. Kowloon Wharves have experienced a small boom, sales having been made as high as \$59. I can find no reason for this sudden rise beyond the fact that the Company's earnings are increasing. Wanchais continue quiet at \$45 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

**MISCELLANEOUS.**—Watsons have been negotiated at \$12.85 and close with buyers. Electrics have changed hands at \$6.75 and are wanted at that rate. I have nothing else to report under this heading.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

| COMPANY.                   | PAID UP.          | QUOTATIONS.                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Banks—                     |                   | [\$363.75, s. & sel.                |
| Hongkong & Sh'liai...      | \$125             | 191 $\frac{1}{2}$ , s. prem. =      |
| China & Japan, pref.       | £5                | nominal                             |
| Do. ordinary...            | £1 10s.           | nominal                             |
| Do. deferred...            | £1                | £2, buyers                          |
| Natl. Bank of China:       |                   |                                     |
| B. Shares .....            | £8                | \$26 $\frac{1}{2}$ , sales          |
| Founders Shares..          | £1                | \$100                               |
| Bell's Asbestos Etc. A.... | 15s.              | nominal                             |
| Brown & Co., H. G....      | £50               | (in liquidation).                   |
| Campbell, Moore & Co....   | £10               | £6                                  |
| Carmichael & Co....        | £20               | £8                                  |
| China Sugar .....          | £100              | £131, buyers                        |
| Dakin, Cruicks'k & Co....  | £5                | £1, buyers                          |
| Dairy Farm Co....          | £5                | £5, nominal                         |
| Fenwick & Co., Geo....     | £25               | £29 $\frac{1}{2}$                   |
| Green Island Cement...     | £10               | £17 $\frac{1}{2}$ , sales           |
| H. & China Bakery ...      | £50               | £30                                 |
| Hongkong & C. Gas ...      | £10               | £110, buyers                        |
| Hongkong Electric ...      | £8                | £6.75, sal. & buyers                |
| H. H. L. Tramways ...      | £100              | £96, sales                          |
| Hongkong Hotel .....       | £50               | £29, sellers                        |
| Hongkong Ice .....         | £25               | £105                                |
| H. & K. Wharf & G....      | £50               | £59, sellers                        |
| Hongkong Rope.....         | £50               | £127 $\frac{1}{2}$ , sal. & sellers |
| H. & W. Dock .....         | £125              | 202 p. ct. prem. =                  |
| Insurances—                |                   | [\$377 $\frac{1}{2}$ , s. & sel.    |
| Canton.....                | £50               | £105, sellers                       |
| China Fire .....           | £20               | £97, sales & sellers                |
| China Traders' .....       | £25               | £81 $\frac{1}{2}$ , sellers         |
| Hongkong Fire .....        | £50               | £342 $\frac{1}{2}$ , sal. & sellers |
| North-China .....          | £25               | Tls. 192 $\frac{1}{2}$ , sellers    |
| Straits.....               | £20               | £27 $\frac{1}{2}$ , buyers          |
| Union .....                | £25               | £250, sales                         |
| Yangtze.....               | £60               | £150, sales                         |
| Land and Building—         |                   |                                     |
| H. Land Investment.        | £50               | £75 $\frac{1}{2}$ , sales           |
| Humphreys Estate..         | £10               | £9, sellers                         |
| Kowloon Land & B.          | £30               | £18                                 |
| West Point Building        | £40               | £18 $\frac{1}{2}$ , buyers          |
| Luzon Sugar .....          | £100              | £55, sales                          |
| Mining—                    |                   |                                     |
| Charbonnages .....         | Fcs. 500          | 72 $\frac{1}{2}$                    |
| Jelebu .....               | £5                | \$3.10, sellers                     |
| New Balmoral .....         | £3                | £2.50, sellers                      |
| Oliver's Mines, A....      | £5                | £7, sellers                         |
| Do. B. ....                | £2 $\frac{1}{2}$  | £3.50, sellers                      |
| Punjom .....               | £4                | £10 $\frac{1}{2}$ , sales & sellers |
| Do. Preference...          | £1                | £3.40, sellers                      |
| Raubs .....                | 13s. 10d.         | £5.50, sales & buyers               |
| Steamship Cos.—            |                   |                                     |
| China and Manila ..        | £50               | £71, sellers                        |
| China Mutual Ord...        | £5                | £3, sellers                         |
| Do. Preference...          | £10               | £8.10, sales & sellers              |
| Douglas S. S. Co....       | £50               | £65, sales                          |
| H. Canton and M....        | £15               | £33.25, sal. & sellers              |
| Indo-China S. N....        | £10               | £45, sales                          |
| Wanchai Wareh'se Co.       | £37 $\frac{1}{2}$ | £45 $\frac{1}{2}$ , buyers          |
| Watson & Co., A. S ...     | £10               | £12.85 sales & buyers               |
| J. Y. V. VERNON, Broker.   |                   |                                     |

**SHANGHAI.** 18th September.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s report.)—A large business was done during the week, chiefly in Bank, Marine Insurance, and China Sugar Refining shares. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Shares have been dealt in at rates gradually advancing from 190 to 195 per cent. premium. On time, business was done at 199 to 203 per cent. premium for the 30th November, 205

for 31st December, and 208 per cent. premium for the 28th February. The market closes weak with cash sellers at 194 per cent. premium. There is no business reported in other Bank shares. Shipping.—Indo-China Ste. N. Co. shares changed hands at Tls. 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ /34 for cash, and business was done for 28th February at Tls. 35. There are cash sellers at Tls. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ , and buyers for February at Tls. 35. Docks.—Shares in Boyd & Co. were sold at Tls. 190. S. C. Farnham & Co. shares have been placed at Tls. 195 and Tls. 200, and again at Tls. 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ , which is the closing rate. Marine Insurance.—Business has been done in North-China shares at Tls. 190, Unions at \$260, Yangtze at \$145 for 30th September, Canton at \$190, and Straits at \$28 and \$27 $\frac{1}{2}$  for the 30th instant. Fire Insurance.—Hongkongs were placed at \$335, and China at \$96 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Wharfs.—Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares have changed hands at Tls. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ , Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown shares are wanted at \$5 $\frac{1}{2}$ , but are held for higher rates. Mining.—Raub Australian Gold Mining shares have been sold at \$5.10 and \$5.15, and to Hongkong at \$5.25. Tug and Cargo Boats.—The Shanghai Tug Boat Co. paid a second interim dividend of 5 per cent. on the 15th instant. Shanghai Cargo Boat shares have been sold at Tls. 200. Sugars.—A large business has been done in China Sugar Refining shares at \$125 to \$131 cash, \$128 for November, \$129 to \$134 for December, and to Hongkong at \$124 to \$131 for cash, and \$134 for December. The market is strong with buyers.

Lands.—Shanghai Land shares have been placed at Tls. 80 $\frac{1}{2}$  to Tls. 81, and Hongkong Lands have been sold to Hongkong at \$75. Buyers now offer \$74 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Industrial—Major Brothers' shares have been sold, and are offering, at Tls. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Ewo Cotton S. & W. shares have been placed at Tls. 80. Miscellaneous.—Business was done in Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares at Tls. 105 to Tls. 112 $\frac{1}{2}$  cash, Tls. 110 for October, and Tls. 120 for November, Shanghai-Langkat Tobacco shares at Tls. 475 cum the new issue at par, Shanghai Horse Bazaar shares at Tls. 65 and Tls. 66, Hall & Holtz shares at \$36 $\frac{1}{2}$  and \$37, and Hongkong Electric shares, from Hongkong, at \$7. Loans.—Shanghai Land 5 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Debentures were placed at Tls. 105; Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Debentures at Tls. 110, and Shanghai-Langkat 10 per cent. Debentures at par. Quotations are:—

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—\$367.50.

National Bank of China, Ld.—\$27.

National Bank of China, Ld., Founders.—\$27.

Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited, pref. shares.—Nominal.

Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited, ordinary shares.—Nominal.

Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited, deferred shares.—£2.

Indo-China Steam N. Co., Ld.—Tls. 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

China-Mutual Steam Nav. Co. pref. shares.—£8.5.0.

China-Mutual Steam Nav. Co. ord. shares.—£3 Is. 6d.

Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co.—\$33

Douglas Steamship Co., Ld.—\$66 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Boyd & Co., Ld., Founders.—Tls. Nominal.

Boyd & Co., Limited.—Tls. 190.

S. C. Farnham & Co.—Tls. 195.

Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ld.—\$375.

China Traders' Insurance Co., Ld.—\$81.

North-China Insurance Co., Ld.—Tls. 192.

Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ld.—\$30.

Yangtze Insce. Assn., Ld.—\$142 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Canton Insurance Office, Ld.—\$190.

Straits Insurance Co., Ld.—\$27 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ld.—\$335.

China Fire Insurance Co., Ld.—\$96 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co.—Tls. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Birt's Wharf Hide-curing and Wool-cleaning Company.—Tls. 55.

Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited.—\$55 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Siberian Consolidated Mining and Milling Company, Limited.—Tls. 24.

Punjom Mining Co., Ld.—\$114.

Punjom Mining Co., Ld. pref. shares.—\$3 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Jelebu Mining & Trading Co., Ld.—\$3.

Raub Australian Gold Min. Co., Ld.—\$54.

Shanghai Tugboat Co., Ld.—Tls. 215.

Taku Tug & Lighter Co., Ld.—T. Tls. 105.

Shanghai Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 200.

Co-operative Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 180.

Perak Sugar Cultivation Co., Ld.—Tls. 43.

China Sugar Refining Co., Ld.—\$131.

Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Ld.—\$60.

Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ld. (fully paid).—Tls. 81.

Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ld. (Tls. 30 paid).—Tls. 58.

Hongkong Land Invest. & A. Co., Ld.—\$74 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Kowloon Land & Building Co., Ld.—\$19 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Humphreys Estate and Finance Co., Ld.—\$0.

Major Brothers, Limited.—Tls. 44 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Ewo Cotton Spinning & W. Co., Ld.—Tls. 50.

International Cotton Man. Co., Ld.—Tls. 97 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Laou-kung-mow Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co., Ld.—Tls. 95.

Soy Chee Cotton Spinning Co., Ld.—Tls. 500.

Shanghai Ice Company—Tls. 150.

Shanghai Gas Co.—Tls. 210.

Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ld.—Tls. 251.

Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Co.—Tls. 112 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ld.—Tls. 475.

Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ld., Founders.—Nominal.

Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ld.—Tls. 66.

J. Llewellyn & Co., Limited.—\$45.

Hall & Holtz, Ld.—\$37.

A. S. Watson Co., Limited.—\$12 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Ld.—\$6.

Hongkong Electric Co., Ld.—\$7.

TONNAGE.

**HONGKONG.** 23rd September.—During the past fortnight freights have continued dull and the volume of business transacted has been small. From Saigon to Hongkong there is no business doing. From Saigon to Singapore and to Sourabaya a few fixtures are reported at poor rates. From Java to Hongkong there does not appear to be much demand for tonnage. From Bangkok to this there is no enquiry for steamers and the regular lines at very poor rates provide more tonnage than is required at present. Newchwang to Canton a little business has been doing for loading in about three weeks at very low rates. There does not seem to be much prospect of coal freights in this direction this season. Japan coal freights have shown a further decline, tonnage having been offered at 90 cents per ton from Moji to this and a fixture having been made at \$1.65 to Singapore, at which figure further tonnage is offering. Sailing tonnage does not appear to be much required, charterers having taken up about as much as they want for the present, both for New York and San Francisco.

There are ten vessels disengaged in port, registering 1,884 tons.

The following are the settlements:—

*S. D. Carleton*—American ship, 1,638 tons, hence to New York, private terms.

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**SHIPPING.**

**ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.**  
**HONGKONG.**

**September— ARRIVALS.**

- 16, Leeuyuen, Chinese str., from Canton.
- 16, Chiyuén, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 16, Ceylon, British str., from London.
- 16, Erato, German str., from Hamburg.
- 16, Shanghai, British str., from Yokohama.
- 17, Strathallan, British str., from Canton.
- 17, Ningchow, British str., from Liverpool.
- 17, Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
- 17, Malacca, British str., from Bombay.
- 17, Ask, Danish str., from Pakhoi.
- 17, Pathan, British str., from Kobe.
- 17, Anvers, Belgian str., from Iloilo.
- 18, Progress, German str., from Quinhon.
- 18, Hoihow, British str., from Canton.
- 18, Taichio, British str., from Bangkok.
- 18, Pekin, British str., from Bombay.
- 18, Wingsang, British str., from Canton.
- 18, Benvenue, British str., from Foochow.
- 18, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
- 18, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
- 18, Satsuma Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
- 18, Pigmy, British g.-bt., from Nagasaki.
- 18, Mathilde, German str., from Pakhoi.
- 18, Oanfa, British str., from London.
- 19, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.
- 19, Haitan, British str., from Swatow.
- 19, Hinsang, British str., from Hongay.
- 19, Chihli, British str., from Swatow.
- 19, Freiburg, German ship, from New York.
- 19, Kwongsang, British str., from Chefoo.
- 19, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 19, Germania, German str., from Swatow.
- 20, Ancona, British str., from Yokohama.
- 20, Australian, British str., from Sydney.
- 20, Choisang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 20, Chiuyuen, Chinese str., from Canton.
- 20, Hong Leong, British str., from Singapore.
- 20, Nanyang, German str., from Canton.
- 20, Oslo, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
- 20, Tailee, German str., from Iloilo.
- 20, Wuhu, British str., from Java.
- 20, Tritos, German str., from Manila.
- 21, Kriemhild, German str., from Kobe.
- 21, Guthrie, British str., from Kobe.
- 21, Sarpedon, British str., from Liverpool.
- 21, Lightning, British str., from Calcutta.
- 21, Merionethshire, British str., from Y'hama.
- 21, China, German str., from Saigon.
- 22, Kaisar-i-Hind, British str., from Shanghai.
- 22, Prinz Heinrich, German str., from Bremen.
- 22, Tertatos, German str., from Hoihow.
- 22, Coptic, British str., from San Francisco.
- 22, Federation, British str., from Singapore.
- 23, Formosa, British str., from Tamsui.
- 23, Memnon, British str., from Sandakan.
- 23, Lyeemoon, German str., from Shanghai.
- 23, Radley, British str., from Singapore.
- 23, Siam, British str., from Bangkok.
- 23, Peiyang, German str., from Chinkiang.

**September— DEPARTURES.**

- 16, Hikosan Maru, Jap. str., for Kutchinotzu.
- 16, Ekaterinoslav, Russian str., for Nagasaki.
- 16, Aglaia, German str., for Singapore.
- 16, Bayern, German str., for Europe, &c.
- 16, Saghalien, French str., for Europe.
- 16, Chingping, Chinese str., for Tientsin.
- 16, Decima, German str., for Saigon.
- 16, Kiangnan, Chinese str., for Swatow.
- 16, Kong Alf, Norw. str., for Singapore.
- 16, Marie Valerie, Aust. str., for Shanghai.
- 16, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
- 17, Fooksang, British str., for Swatow.
- 17, Hydaspes, British str., for London.
- 17, Strathallan, British str., for Hongay.
- 17, Cassius, German str., for Kobe.
- 22, Mathilde, German str., for Hoihow.
- 22, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
- 22, Holstein, German str., for Saigon.
- 22, Progress, German str., for Tournon.
- 22, Australian, British str., for Shanghai.
- 22, Chelydra, British str., for Calcutta.
- 22, Chiynen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 22, Germania, German str., for Singapore.
- 22, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
- 22, Hong Leong, British str., for Amoy.
- 22, Nanyang, German str., for Shanghai.
- 22, Peru, Amr. str., for San Francisco.
- 22, Sarpedon, British str., for Amoy.
- 23, Sungkiang, British str., for Maula.
- 23, Wuhu, British str., for Swatow.
- 23, Satsuma Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
- 23, Taichio, British str., for Bangkok.

- 17, Chiynen, Chinese str., for Canton.
- 18, Paul Revere, Amr. ship, for New York.
- 18, Leeuyuen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 18, Mazagon, British str., for Shanghai.
- 18, Namoa, British str., for Swatow.
- 18, Ningchow, British str., for Shanghai.
- 18, Wongkoi, British str., for Bangkok.
- 19, Pekin, British str., for Shanghai.
- 19, Ceylon, British str., for Shanghai.
- 19, Hoihow, British str., for Swatow.
- 19, Arthur Head, British str., for Shanghai.
- 19, Fuping, Chinese str., for Tientsin.
- 19, Malacca, British str., for Shanghai.
- 19, Petrarch, German str., for Garontala.
- 19, Shanghai, British str., for London.
- 20, Apenrade, German str., for Bangkok.
- 20, Ask, Danish str., for Pakhoi.
- 20, Aslcun, British str., for Shanghai.
- 20, Benvenue, British str., for New York.
- 20, Chihli, British str., for Shanghai.
- 20, Cosmopolit, German str., for Amoy.
- 20, Erato, German str., for Yokohama.
- 20, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
- 20, Hinsang, British str., for Foochow.
- 20, Kwongsang, British str., for Canton.
- 20, Nanyo Maru, Jap. str., for Moji.
- 20, Propontis, British str., for Singapore.
- 20, Siegfried, German str., for Saigon.
- 21, Choisang, British str., for Canton.
- 21, Hanoi, French str., for Hoihow.
- 21, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Canton.
- 21, Oanfa, British str., for Shanghai.
- 21, Pathan, British str., for Australia.
- 21, Wingsang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 22, Amarapura, British str., for Nagasaki.

**PASSENGER LIST.****ARRIVED.**

- Per Wingsang, str., from Shanghai, &c.—Mrs. Renulie and child, and Mr. Daly.
- Per Hohenzollern, str., from Japan—Mr. Ch. Römbach, Mr. and Mrs. Ellert, Miss B. B. Noyes, Messrs. V. Uyena, Ridley, T. F. Benton.
- Per Saghalien, str., for Hongkong from Yokohama—Mrs. Edye. From Shanghai—Mrs. Raband, Mr. Vial, Mrs. A. Knappe, Mrs. Warren, Mr. Dos Remedios, Mr. and Mrs. Sylva and 3 children, Messrs. Gaunbaum, Blum Félix, J. G. Wambu, Mr. and Mrs. Ward Pottler and infant. For Saigon from Yokohama—Mr. Chaux. For Singapore from Yokohama—Lieut. MacIntosh, and Mr. Tirü. From Kobe—Mr. Aiken. From Shanghai—Mrs. Jenkins. For Bombay from Yokohama—Mr. Armstrong. For Port Said from Shanghai—Mr. Antrea Vronis. For Marseilles from Yokohama—Mr. Millocheau. From Shanghai—Messrs. N. Jaeger, F. Spitzer, and Capt. Stewart.

- Per Ceylon, str., from London for Hongkong—Lieut. Ryder and Mr. Boffey. For Shanghai—Mr. and Mrs. Moor. From Singapore for Hongkong—Rev. H. P. and Mrs. Cockrane. For Yokohama—Mr. R. C. Petherbridge.

- Per Shanghai, str., from Yokohama for Hongkong—Miss Russell. For London—Miss Millar. From Kobe for Port Said—Mr. and Mrs. O. Fallon. For Calcutta—Mr. and Mrs. Bird.

- Per Malacca, str., from Bombay, &c.—Mr. Shiyuma.

- Per Taichio, str., from Bangkok &c.—Mr. Iversen.

- Per Pekin, str., from London for Hongkong—Lieut. F. C. Grover, and Mr. Messum and servant. From Brindisi—Mr. F. J. Giese. From Bombay—Mr. S. P. Dalal. From Penang—Mr. Leung Kam Tsun. From Singapore—Mr. A. G. R. Green, R.A. From London for Shanghai—Mrs. Webster and Mrs. Wills and children. For Yokohama—Mr. A. M. Gale. From Brindisi for Shanghai—Mr. Henney and Mr. Walff.

- Per Anvers, str., from Iloilo—Mr. Max Aureggur.

- Per Haimun, str., from Tamsui, &c.—Messrs. De Souza, Kuba, and Yukijo Ho.

- Per Meefoo, str., from Shanghai—Mr. J. A. Maffat.

- Per Hong Leong, str., from Singapore—Mr. A. Thomas.

- Per Choisang, str., from Shanghai, &c.—Mr. H. Cordes.

- Per Ancona, str., from Yokohama, &c.—Mrs. Esteban and child, Messrs. L. E. Duinas, C. Kohnke, Benning, and G. C. Bowman.

- Per Australian, str., from Sydney, &c.—Mr. and Mrs. Bond, Mr. and Mrs. Findlay and child, Mr. and Mrs. Merryvale, Mr. and Mrs. Roach,

- Misses Roach (3), Mr. Henry Martin, Miss Martin, Miss Dinwoodie, Mr. Blackadder, Capt. McKechnie, Capt. Oriole, Mr. and Mrs. Albionada de Luc, Mrs. Garcia, Mrs. Maher, Master Maher, Madri Theresa, Madri Jon, Mr. Warley, Mr. Loo Look Kee, Cesimino Saboza, Mr. and Mrs. Julian and 5 children, Antonio, Kotula, Mr. Rundle, and Mr. and Mrs. Josi Gregoris.

- Per Lightning, str., from Calcutta, &c.—Messrs. Barker, Keogh, and Harris.

- Per Prinz Heinrich, str., from Bremen for Hongkong—Mrs. Cliff and child, Mrs. Graham, and Miss Turus, Rev. Hugh Waddell, Messrs. Nielsen, W. Biscup, Consul Dr. Mers and family, E. John, F. Hildebrandt, A. Riege, F. Bryant, J. Brown, W. F. Richards, D. Morrell, W. Melchers, E. Krug, C. Heuser, S. Komer, Kuhn, A. Paper and family, Dr. Kasai, Dr. Katz, Robinson, and C. V. D. Michleu, and 363 Chinese from Singapore.

- Per Kaisar-i-Hind, str., from Shanghai for Hongkong—Mr. and Mrs. Graham, Mrs. J. B. Jackson, Mr. H. D. Patch, Miss Hartmann and Mr. Harling. From Yokohama for Singapore—Mr. W. J. Blackwell. From Shanghai—Miss Grenard, Mr. J. C. Daunt and Mr. J. Jun Mau. From Shangkai for Penang—Mr. and Mrs. Lindsay. From Shanghai for London—Mrs. C. Cole, Mrs. Percebois and children, Messrs. Neil Sinclair, Chas. Bogren and J. W. Murbeck.

- Per Coptic, str., from San Francisco, &c.—Miss Hazel Stone, Miss Stella Bancroft, Miss Hazel Wallace, Miss Edna Webster, Dr. G. E. Longeway, Messrs. J. Allen Hunt, Geo. H. Rollison, R. T. Wright, and Jno. Derby, Capt. and Mrs. Welman and child, Capt. and Mrs. Farrow and 3 children, and Miss Sandberg. Per Federation, str., from Singapore, &c.—Mr. G. Paxton.

**DEPARTED.**

- Per Bayern, str., from Yokohama for Singapore—Mr. G. Williams. For Colombo—Miss B. B. Noyes. For Genoa—Mr. K. Heno. For Bremen—Messrs. Hooustrats and Wieder. From Hyogo for Singapore—Mr. and Mrs. Diniz and child. From Nagasaki for Singapore—Mrs. A. Tetsu, Mrs. Y. Toki, and Mr. F. Yagotische. For Deli—Mr. J. Hoenda. For London—Mr. J. F. Benton. From Shanghai for Glasgow—Mr. J. Shannon. For Hamburg—Rev. and Mrs. Kundsen and family. For Genoa—Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Hay and 2 children. For London—Mrs. Hamlyn and 3 children. For Bremen—Messrs. Chen Ta Min, Shao Heng Chun, Chen Chea Chu, and Li Hung Mo. From Hongkong for Southampton—Messrs. I. S. Thyne, J. Smith, Yu Lee, Wm. Barter, D. McColl, A. Wellington, J. Grant, E. Alexander, J. Dickson, and J. Moreer. For Bremerhaven—Mr. A. Hederop. For Bremen—Mr. Yang Chang. For Genoa—Mr. C. Rombach. For Naples—Rev. R. Pyronni. For Singapore—Mr. and Mrs. Lo Li Pang and child.

- Per Saghalien, str., from Hongkong for Singapore—Messrs. A. Levy and G. C. Turner. For Marseilles—Rev. Mioux. From Yokohama for Saigon—Mr. Chaux. For Singapore—Lieut. MacIntosh, and Mr. Tirü. For Bombay—Capt. Armstrong. For Marseilles—Mr. Millocheau. From Shanghai for Singapore—Mrs. Jenkins. For Port Said—Mr. Antrea Vronis. For Marseilles—Messrs. N. Jaeger, F. Spitzer, and Stewart. From Kobe for Singapore—Mr. Aiken.

- Per Fooksang, str., for Shanghai—Mr. G. Anderson, and Capt. Johnston.

- Per Loongmoon, str., for Shanghai—Baron von der Goltz and Mr. Wm. Thomas.

- Per Peru, str., for Kobe—Mr. and Mrs. Essaboy and family, Mr. Rundle, Mrs. A. Esteban. For Yokohama—Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Commodore Boyes, Mr. E. A. Ram, Dr. Kasai, Mrs. Lo Kwai Yuen, Messrs. Ah Young, Ah Kong, Kulin, and Komor. For San Francisco—Rev. and Mrs. Cochrane, Mr. H. Borden, and Mr. Jas. Dalziel.

- Per Australian, str., for Shanghai—Mr. and Mrs. Roach and 3 children, Mr. and Mrs. Findlay and child, Mr. and Mrs. Bond, Miss Dinwoodie, Mr. and Mrs. Merrivale, Capt. McKechnie, and Mr. Rundle.

- Per Haitan, str., for Swatow—Mr. Wong Jee Tai. For Amoy—Mr. and Mrs. Ho Pek Po. For Foochow—Mr. G. B. Dodwell.